Bleeding Gum or Bone Loss Around an Implant: Peri-Implantitis Explained

Canonical: https://directory.collinsstreetspecialistcentre.com.au/treatment-guides/bleeding-gum-or-bone-loss-around-an-implant-peri-implantitis-explained/

Description:

Bleeding, swelling or receding gum around a dental implant can be peri-implantitis. Signs, causes, assessment and treatment at Collins Street Specialist Centre.

Details:

Peri-implantitis is inflammation and infection in the gum and bone around a dental implant. If it is not treated, the bone holding the implant can break down until the implant loosens or is lost. It is often painless early on, so bleeding or swelling around an implant is a reason to have it checked.

How is it different from peri-implant mucositis?

Peri-implant mucositis is the earlier stage. It affects only the gum and can be reversed. Peri-implantitis has spread to the bone.

What signs should I look out for?

- Bleeding or swelling around an implant
- Pus or a bad taste
- Gum shrinking back so the implant threads show
- Gaps (pockets) around the implant getting deeper
- In later stages, the implant becoming loose

What causes it?

- Plaque building up around the implant, often where the crown or bridge is hard to clean
- A past history of gum disease
- Smoking and diabetes
- Cement left behind under the gum when a crown was fitted
- An implant positioned where cleaning is difficult
- Heavy biting forces

How do we assess it?

Before any specialist appointment, general dentist and practice principal Dr Kia Pajouhesh offers a complimentary review of the implant and your concerns. There is no fee for it, no obligation to book anything further, and no time limit on the offer; if you go on to see a specialist or need imaging, those are charged, with fees explained before you book. A specialist assessment may then include:

- gently measuring the gum around each implant
- x-rays, and 3D imaging where needed, to measure bone levels
- checking whether the crown or bridge design lets you clean around it
- reviewing your general health and medicines

What can treatment involve?

- Professional cleaning and decontamination of the implant surface
- Home care with tools that suit your implant
- Changing or remaking the crown or bridge so it can be cleaned
- Surgery to clean the implant and, in some cases, regenerate bone
- Removing the implant and planning a replacement when it cannot be kept
- Regular maintenance visits to keep the area stable

Whether lost bone can be partly regenerated depends on the shape and amount of bone loss.

Who may be involved?

Dr Simon Hinckfuss, who holds specialist registration in both periodontics and prosthodontics, leads this care, with Dr Ricky Kumar (specialist registration in oral and maxillofacial surgery) and our prosthodontists where a crown or bridge needs changing. Check any registration on the AHPRA register.

Frequently asked questions

The gum around my implant bleeds when I brush. Should I worry?

Bleeding is an early sign of inflammation. Have it checked soon, while the inflammation may still be limited to the gum.

Can bone grow back around an implant?

In some cases surgical treatment can regenerate part of the lost bone. Whether that is possible for you depends on the shape and amount of bone that has been lost.

Results, recovery times and risks vary for each individual.

Have your implant gums checked

For a complimentary review of bleeding or receding gums around an implant, ring (03) 9650 2726 or email theteam@collinsstreetspecialistcentre.com.au.

Related pages

- Complex Case Review and Second Opinion
- A dental implant that feels loose or sore
- Implants when you have diabetes, smoke or have other health conditions
- Peri-implantitis specialist management
- Peri-implantitis and implant bone loss on our website