



## Information about placing dental implants under general anaesthetic

### **Control of pain**

Local anaesthetic is used during the operation as well as general anaesthetic to reduce post-operative pain. This results in a numb feeling for about 4 to 5 hours. If you feel any discomfort during your stay in the ward you must tell the nursing sister who will administer appropriate pain relieving medication. Pain relieving tablets for use at home will also be issued before you are discharged.

### **Antibiotics**

During the operation you will be given the first dose of an antibiotic. Before discharge from hospital you will receive a prescription for the remaining antibiotics to complete the course. It is important that the complete course be taken. If you have ever previously had an allergic reaction to any antibiotics please remind us.

### **Stitches**

Stitches will be used to close the wound and they are usually removed one week later at the review appointment. This is a short procedure which causes only minor discomfort.

### **Wearing your dentures**

It is often possible for you to reinsert your denture directly after surgery, particularly if it replaces only a few teeth. This must be discussed with your restorative dentist, as the denture will normally need to be adjusted and relined.

**Patients with full dentures will have to leave out the denture which rests on the surgery site for about 10 days to prevent it pressing on the underlying implants.**

### **Care of surgery site**

You will be given a comprehensive instruction sheet before your discharge on how to look after the surgical site and keep it clean.

**Smoking has been shown to reduce the chance of successful osseointegration (healing) taking place. It is therefore advisable to stop or greatly reduce cigarette consumption both before and after the surgery.**

### **Time off work**

You can expect to experience some degree of swelling, bruising and discomfort for a few days following the surgery. In normal circumstances this will require no more than 3 to 4 days away from work. A medical certificate can be issued to cover this period. If you are required to leave out your denture after the surgery it would be wise to restrict your social program for up to two weeks.

### **Uncovering the implants (Stage II)**

Implants placed in the lower jaw are allowed to heal for 3 to 4 months before being uncovered. In the upper jaw they are left for 6 to 7 months.