

8 b Preoperative advice for patients undergoing implants

Great care must be taken when selecting your clinician (avoid non specialists for complicated treatments and if you are in doubt contact the general dental council. We also suggest caution in seeking 'cheap' implant treatment abroad!).

Nerve injuries related to dental implant treatment is rare but a significant problem for patients affected by them. The incidence of implant related inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) nerve injuries varies from 0-40%.

Process before you have your treatment.

- You should be advised regarding alternative treatments before you go ahead with implants (dentures, crown and bridge work)
- You should have at least 2 visits including written and explicit consent that you should fully understand before signing and all your questions answered.
- You should be assessed using Xrays generally DPT (large rotational Xrays)
- Sometimes special scans to see exactly where the lower jaw nerve is and whether there is enough bone for the implant. Thus additional scanning (cone beam CT) has now been introduced to many specialist practises and dental hospitals will provide low radiation dosage and improved imaging for planning implant treatment.
- If you experience severe pain during or immediately after your implant surgery this may be an indication of nerve injury
- Your dentist should contact you 8-12 hours after surgery to ensure that the local anaesthetic injections have worn off and that the feeling has returned to you lip and mouth.
- If there is altered feeling and or numbness in your lip after the local has worn off, you may need to have your implant removed swiftly to maximise nerve recovery.

Have you been injured? URGENT treatment (within 30 hours) is indicated in implant related nerve injuries [link to contact page](#)