Cost of a Bone Graft and Dental Implant Failure

Bone grafts and subsequent dental implant therapy enjoy a high survival rate in the literature, however, like any other regenerative and medical device, are subject to failure.² Currently, there are numerous articles in the dental literature that show surgical techniques and methods of treating or replacing failing/failed dental implants.3 Unfortunately, there are only a few articles that exist that describe the exact cost of a dental implant failure.⁴ To put a price tag on the true cost of a bone graft and/or dental implant failure, various indicators such as fixed cost, overhead, material costs, lost wages, time spent and negative experience by the patient must be analyzed.

Fixed/Material Costs

\$2,700 - \$6,200

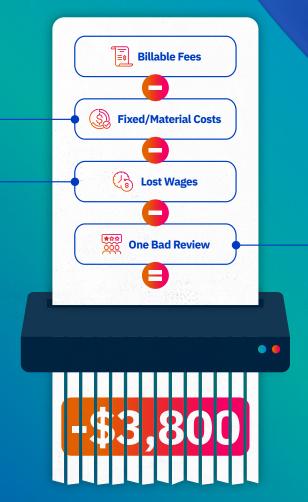
Fixed and Material Costs are determined by calculating how much it costs to keep an office running per hour, the total cost to place a bone graft, dental implant, and restore a dental implant. Depending on the fee schedule and insurance reimbursement, total billable production for a bone graft, dental implant, and dental crown can range from \$2,700 to \$6,200.6

Lost Wages

\$2,000 - \$7,500

The average general dentist (single provider) in the United States generates \$500/hr and could be up to \$1,500/hr (single provider specialist). The estimated time it takes to place a bone graft, single fixture implant, restore it, then explant it when it fails, replace the implant and crown, along with all the follow-up visits, is estimated to be approximately 4-5 hours. Lost wages will be calculated to range from \$2,000 to \$7,500 dollars depending on the provider.7

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Final Calculation

Taking the high and low billable fees, subtracting fixed & material costs, lost wages, and estimating the cost of a single bad review (using the low average of \$1,000): the total cost of a single bone graft and implant failure can range from break-even to -\$2,400 in a general dentist's office.** This number ranges from break-even to -\$3,800 in a specialty office.

Calculating the cost of a single negative review

According to one site, the formula for the cost of a single bad review for a year can be calculated.5



LC= Lost customer. RC= Referred customer. CLV= Customer lifetime value multiplied by 12 months.

Patient Experience and Cost of a Bad Review

\$1,000 - \$6,000

Patients have reported various negative experiences when a bone graft and/or implant fail starting with pain, additional costs, lost time, time away from family, lost faith in the doctor and/or office, and negative negative reviews on websites or social media. For a from \$1.000 to \$6.000.**

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