

Bridges

Q1. What is a bridge?

A1. A bridge is a fixed replacement for a missing tooth or teeth. Typically it would consist of two crowns joined together with a false tooth in the middle. The teeth on either side provide support for the bridge.

Q2. Why should I replace a missing tooth?

A2. Firstly for your appearance but also it can put unnecessary pressure on your other teeth. Neighbouring teeth may change position and lean into the gap changing the way you bite. It is also easier to get food trapped in the gap which would increase the likelihood of cavities occurring in your other teeth.

Q3. What appointments will I need?

A3. You would need two appointments and they would be approximately 2 weeks apart.

Q4. What will happen at each appointment?

A4. At the first appointment your dentist will prepare the teeth that the bridge will attach to and take impressions. They will also take the shade of your teeth so that the bridge matches the colour. These impressions are then sent to a laboratory for the bridge to be made. At the second appointment your dentist will cement the bridge into place.

Q5. Will it affect the appearance of my teeth?

A5. The colour of the bridge is matched to the colour of your original teeth so it will look completely natural.

Q6. What are bridges made from?

A6. They are normally made of porcelain bonded to a precious metal. Sometimes other non-precious metals are used instead. Some bridges are made entirely of a special porcelain and some are made from acrylic. Your dentist will be able to advise you of which is the best option for you.

Q7. Do I need to take it out at night?

A7. Unlike a denture, a bridge is permanently cemented in place and you do not need to remove it but like your own teeth the bridge needs to be kept clean with a toothbrush and a special floss.

Q8. Can I have a bridge fitted straight after an extraction?

A8. Your gums and bone need time to heal and they can change in shape after an extraction so it is advised to wait 3-6 months before having a bridge. In the meantime you can have a temporary denture or temporary bridge.

Q9. Is there an alternative?

A9. Other options for replacing missing teeth are partial dentures or implants.