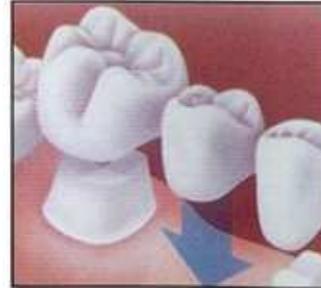


Fixed Bridges

Bridges provide a way of filling a gap left by missing teeth, without the need for a removal denture. Naturally this offers a more acceptable solution socially.



Bridges are usually made of a precious metal alloy covered in a tooth-coloured porcelain. A bridge is in essence a number of crowns fused together.



Although a bridge may sometimes seem expensive, it will usually last for many years. It will improve your appearance and the way your teeth bite together. Constructing a bridge uses the considerable skill of the dental surgeon and dental technician. This does involve some preparation of the teeth either side of the lost teeth.

It is very important that you take special care to clean your bridge. You will have to clean under the false area of your bridge everyday using special floss; your dental surgeon will advise you how to do this when your bridge is fitted.

There are other treatments that can be used to replace missing teeth; these include attachments for dentures and dental implants.

A dental implant is a small titanium threaded screw called a “fixture” that serves as the replacement for the root portion of one or more missing natural teeth. The Implant can be placed in the upper or lower jaw. An implant will bond (osseointegrate) with the bone over time and serve as an anchor for the replacement tooth.



*

With traditional bridges, two teeth adjacent to a missing tooth must be ground down to anchor a bridge. Dental implants can eliminate the need to modify healthy teeth.

There are no loose dentures to worry about. The implant does not need to come in and out. The implant is stable and comfortable. Adjustment is rarely needed after installation. Normally, it will serve its owner for life. Implant supported teeth look, feel and function very like natural teeth. This means you can eat and drink whatever you like.

For more information about implants please see our Dental Implants leaflet.

*