

Missing teeth...? What are your Options?

This guide gives you an overview of each situation so that you can make your decision based on the best solution for you and to suit you and your pocket.

Choice 1 Removable Denture

Denture without implants

If one or several of your teeth are missing, your general dentist can restore your smile with a partial denture. By replacing your individual missing teeth, your dentist can give you back the look and function of a full set of healthy, natural teeth.



The benefits of wearing a good fitting denture.

As well as replacing any missing teeth, a partial denture can also look after the future health of your mouth by preventing your remaining teeth from rotating, tilting and moving into positions that prove unsightly and awkward for eating and talking. Your dentist can create and fit your partial denture that will not only give you your smile back but in addition gives health benefits:



Help you form words more clearly.

Make eating more comfortable, helping you to enjoy food.

Enhancing your appearance by restoring your natural smile.

Preserve the health and appearance of any remaining teeth so you can keep smiling.

Considerations of wearing a denture

Partial dentures do not maintain your bone and gradually you may lose bone which may increase the risk of loose dentures.

Biting and chewing may be restricted taste can be reduced.

Some patients feel uneasy kissing and laughing.

Choice 2 Fixed Dental Bridge

A bridge supported by your own natural teeth – without the need for implants

A bridge may be recommended if you have one or more teeth missing. Gaps left by missing teeth eventually cause the remaining teeth to rotate or shift into the empty spaces, resulting in a bad bite. The imbalance caused by missing teeth can also lead to gum disease and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders.



Benefits of a bridge

Maintains the space and prevents teeth moving, rotating and migrating, which can cause jaw ache.

Maintains aesthetics without the need of a denture.

Considerations

Bridges are commonly used to replace one or more missing teeth. The prosthesis 'bridge' the space where the teeth are missing and are fixed to the natural teeth. This is often considered a downside to bridges as the adjacent teeth need to be reduced to accept the support for the new tooth in the gap.

Teeth need to be reduced to accept the support for new tooth

The supporting tooth will require to work harder as they will be taking on additional tooth function.

This extra work may lead to additional stress and maintenance on the supporting tooth.

Oral hygiene program is required to ensure good cleaning under the bridged area.

Choice 3 Dental Implants

Why Dental Implants – The prevention of bone loss

Losing one or more of your teeth starts a chain of events that can have substantial and cosmetic consequences. The most obvious result is a gap in your smile. Less obvious is the loss of chewing function and the inability to eat a complete diet that can result from tooth loss. While these are certainly serious issues, a potentially bigger problem lies hidden beneath the surface: bone loss.



Your jawbone needs the chewing action of the teeth to stimulate it and keep it strong. Otherwise it will begin to disappear (atrophy) in the same manner that the unused muscles beneath a cast supporting a broken bone get smaller. Without the support of your teeth and facial bones, your face may begin to look prematurely aged. The good news is that tooth replacement with dental implants offers a solution to help prevent bone loss.



Benefits

A solution to help prevent bone loss

Dental implants will allow you to smile, speak, and eat with confidence and comfort.

Implants restore your ability to smile, eat, chew and laugh again with confidence.

Many patients also find that their self-esteem is restored and their 'dental comfort' is reinstated.

This well-established treatment is long lasting and safe, and has success rates of more than 97% over a fifteen year period.

Dr Gulamali has a 99% success rate and is recognised by his peers for this achievement.

Considerations

Treatment is more expensive than traditional tooth replacement. although the cost of the treatment has reduced over the years.

You will be required to refrain from smoking during the healing phase.

There may be mild pain 24 hours after treatment, where over the counter painkillers can help alleviate the pain.

Further considerations are outlined within the question section by [clicking here](#).