



Fixed Bridges

A Bridge replaces a missing tooth or teeth.

It can be attached in a number of ways:

1. It may be that the two teeth nearest on either side of the gap are prepared and then have crowns fixed to them with the missing teeth suspended in the middle.
2. Some bridges are stuck to the inside of the teeth on either side of the gap.
3. Sometimes a bridge is only fixed to a tooth on one side of the gap.
4. Bridges can be made out of different material, including:
 - o Porcelain bonded to precious metal
 - o Porcelain bonded to gold
 - o Porcelain alone

To have a bridge made you will need to have several appointments.

At the first appointment the dentist will make the area numb using local anaesthetic. The dentist will only do this if they need to prepare the surfaces of the teeth next to the gap.

They will then use a soft mouldable material to take impressions of your mouth. These impressions will be sent to a dental technician who will use plaster to make exact models of your teeth and how they bite together.

Once they have these models they can begin to construct the bridge. Sometimes if the bridge is large or you don't bite together correctly it may take a few appointments to try the bridge in and send it away again, until it is correct.

Once the dentist and the technician are happy with what has been constructed the dentist will fix the bridge. This will be done using cement and in most cases does not require local anaesthetics.

The dentist will then arrange for you to see the hygienist so they can explain and show you how to look after the bridge and maintain the oral hygiene in that area.



Adhesive Bridges

Why should I replace missing teeth?

Your appearance is one reason. Another is that a gap left by a missing tooth can mean greater strain on the teeth either side. A gap can also mean that your 'bite' is affected, because the teeth next to the space can lean into the gap and alter the way the upper and lower teeth bite together. This can then lead to food getting packed into the gaps which causes both decay and gum disease.

What is an adhesive bridge?

An adhesive bridge consists of a dummy tooth attached to a titanium wing. This wing glues onto the adjacent tooth.

What are the advantages over traditional crown-retained bridges?

Only minimal preparation of the adjacent tooth is required. This is much healthier for the supporting tooth than removing a large amount of enamel and dentine in order to make a retaining crown. Adhesive bridges are also much less expensive than crown retained bridges.

What are the disadvantages of adhesive bridges?

Adhesive bridges can only be stuck onto unfilled teeth or teeth with very small fillings. If a tooth is heavily filled then a crown retained bridge will be required. An adhesive bridge cannot be fitted where a large number of teeth are due to be replaced. Adhesive bridges do not last as long as crown retained bridges.

How long will the bridge last?

On average the bridge will last around eight years. It will typically need re-cementing once during this period.

Will the bridge feel normal?

The retaining wing will probably feel very 'high' for the first few days. After a week or two the teeth will move slightly so that your 'bite' feels normal again.

How much do they cost?

It depends how many teeth are involved but the price for a bridge would typically be around from £900.

