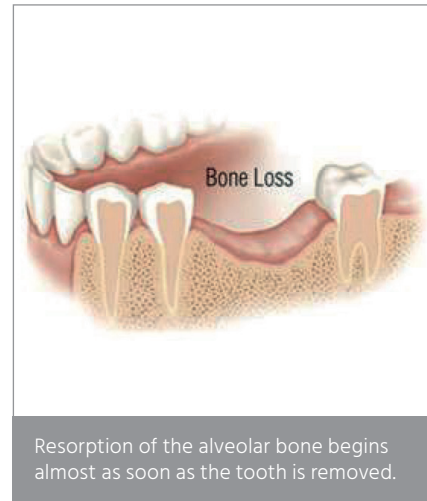


Reasons for replacing a missing tooth (or teeth) vary and should be weighed against the risks of leaving the space, as well as resultant changes that may take place in the rest of your dentition.

Bone loss

When teeth are removed from the jaw, the bone that supported the teeth tends to shrink over time. This process is called resorption and this is a natural consequence of the loss of stimulation to the bone from the forces placed on the teeth.

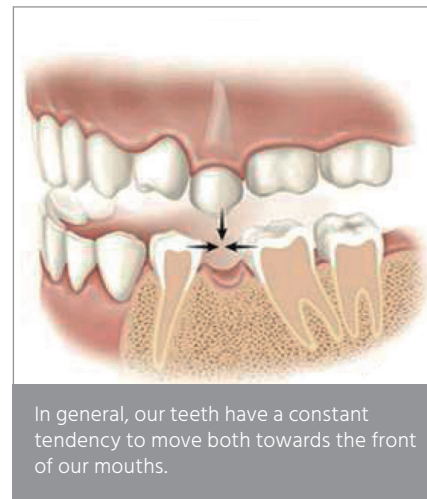
Resorption of the alveolar bone (the bone that supports the teeth) begins almost as soon as the tooth is removed and proceeds over time. The bone will lose both height and width from resorption.



Drifting

Loss of one or two teeth in a segment of your mouth can lead to drifting of neighboring teeth, whereby the adjacent teeth lean over into the vacant space where the teeth have been lost. Similarly, loss of a tooth or teeth can lead to shifting of opposing teeth as they drift down into the open space (super-erupt).

In general, our teeth have a constant tendency to move both towards the front of our mouths and towards the opposing jaw, unless they are stopped by something in the way, usually the adjacent or opposing teeth. Loss of teeth allows this to proceed in a pathologic way. This can increase the risk of gum disease dental decay and bad bite problems.



Together
DENTAL

A guide to replacing missing teeth



We offer a variety of *treatments* to help replace missing teeth.

Here at Together Dental, we are proud to offer a variety of treatments to help replace missing teeth. Our highly-skilled team provide dental implants, bridges and dentures, restoring your smile and boosting your confidence.

Missing teeth can be replaced in a variety of ways. You may be a candidate for any one or all of them, depending on the circumstances. Implants are becoming the treatment of choice for a number of reasons. Most significant among these is the expected longevity, strength and stability offered by current implants treatments, as well as the predictability of implant treatment with current technologies. Listed below are common treatment for missing teeth.

Contact us today to book in your consultation with our talented dentists:

Call us now on **01277 289096**
or Email us at **info@together.dental**

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Together
DENTAL

Dental Implants

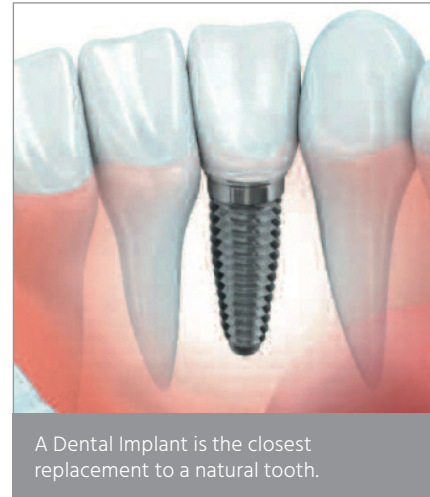
The decision to replace missing or damaged teeth with dental implants can be life-changing. They can restore your smile, your confidence and your ability to enjoy the foods you love. We have placed thousands of implants, enabling patients with a wide range of dental needs to enjoy a new lease of life. Our highly trained team of implant surgeons will create a bespoke treatment plan to suit you, ensuring that you are fully informed and comfortable every step of the way.

Advantages

- A Dental Implant is the closest replacement to a natural tooth.
- Dental implants reduce the load on the remaining oral structures/teeth by offering independent support and retention to crowns, bridgework and overdentures.
- Dental implants preserve natural tooth tissue by avoiding the need to cut down adjacent teeth for conventional bridgework.
- Dental implants will preserve bone and significantly reduce bone resorption and deterioration that results in loss of jawbone height.
- Dental implants have been shown to reduce the need for subsequent restorative intervention of adjacent teeth.
- Long-term data on implants suggest that implants last for a much longer time than conventional restorations on teeth.
- Loose fitting dentures can be replaced with improved support, stability and retention with implant overdentures.
- Overdentures will help control/improve facial contours that result in minimizing premature wrinkles.
- Implant overdentures may allow you to chew your food better and speak more clearly. Many studies have shown that overdentures contribute to improved chewing efficiency and speaking, compared to full dentures.
- Increased confidence and self-esteem, better ability to taste foods (compared to a denture)
- Improved biting and chewing ability.

Disadvantages

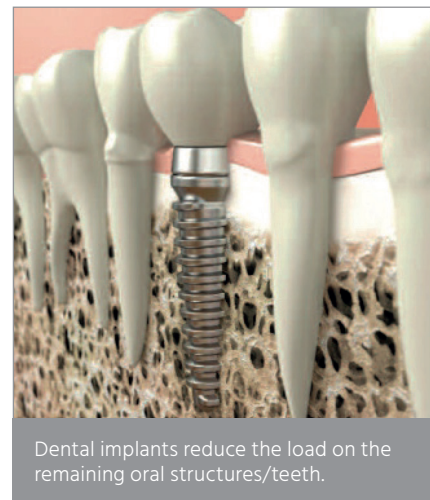
- A surgical procedure for implant placement and a period of healing is necessary before the prosthesis may be completed.
- Dental implant procedures may entail an increase in cost compared to conventional dentistry.
- Mechanical fracture of fixtures, bridges, bridge attaching screws or abutment screws and loosening of screws can occur.
- Porcelain fracture of crowns and bridgework can occur.
- Dental Implants are not usually available under the NHS.



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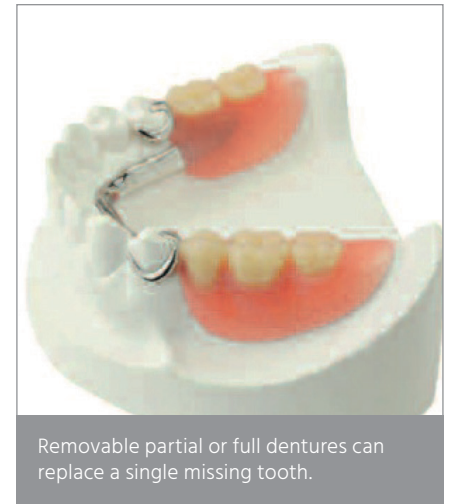
Dental implants reduce the load on the remaining oral structures/teeth.

Dentures

Dentures are prosthetic devices that are expertly created to replace missing teeth, and they are supported by the surrounding tissues of the oral cavity.

If you have loose or ill-fitting dentures, your ability to eat and speak may be negatively affected. We now have the ability to affix your denture to your jaw with dental implants. This treatment for ill-fitting dentures, known as 'implant over dentures' or 'denture stabilisation', offers patients with dentures a more permanent solution, improving their quality of life significantly.

You will be able to enjoy your favourite foods again following denture treatment. You will also feel comfortable smiling, safe in the knowledge that your dentures are staying put.



Removable partial or full dentures can replace a single missing tooth.

Fixed Bridge

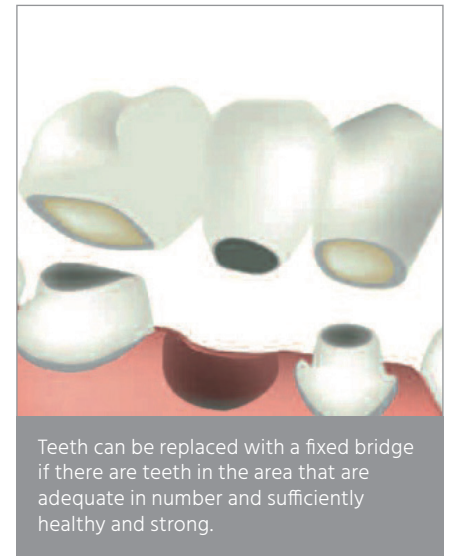
Teeth can be replaced with a fixed bridge if there are teeth in the area that are adequate in number and sufficiently healthy and strong to support the artificial teeth. In order to fabricate a bridge, the adjacent teeth are prepared by reducing their size to remove all the enamel, making room for the prosthetic tooth restoration. The prosthetic tooth (or teeth) can be suspended between adjacent teeth in this way to provide a functional cosmetic replacement for the missing tooth.

The limitation of this form of treatment has to do with the irreversible preparation of the adjacent (abutment) teeth for support. This exposes them to the risk of trauma to their nerves, raising the risk of requiring root canal treatment. Long-term, fixed bridges between natural teeth have an average life expectancy of 10-12 years before required replacement. Replacement of fixed bridges often entails further treatment as the abutment or supporting teeth have been further compromised over time by advancing dental disease (such as cavities or periodontal bone loss).

Fixed bridges are available under the NHS, but ONLY if they are indicated or recommended by the dentist to be necessary to secure or maintain the patient's oral health in the absence of decay or active gum disease, only if bone present can support the bridge, and if the whole mouth justifies it, holistically, in the patients' best interests, and when the removable prosthesis (denture) is not an appropriate replacement option. Fixed bridges than then be offered under the 'Band 3' NHS charge.

Since fixed bridges involve cutting the tooth down to a stump, the NET benefit to the patient's oral health often does not outweigh the NET risk/damage to the adjacent teeth. If the patient still WANTS a bridge, despite risk or detriment to their oral health, bridges may often be provided privately, at approximately £300 per UNIT, at the patients own risk. Often, if harmful to your dental health, your dentist may not be able to provide you with bridge, NHS or privately in your best interests.

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