



Bridges

What is a Bridge?

It is similar to a crown and uses one or more teeth to fix in a tooth into a gap

Bridges are made to restore gaps with a fixed option rather than a removable option

They are not suitable for every gap and the decision to place a bridge is dependent on a number of factors including:

- size of the gap
- the health of the supporting teeth including their gum health (periodontal health)
- The current level of tooth brushing (oral hygiene)

What types of bridges are there?

Your dentist will discuss the different bridge options with you if you are suitable for a bridge

What are my options and the risks and benefits?

- Do nothing and leave a gap -
there is no cost **BUT** the gap will remain
- Place a denture
They can restore multiple gaps at once and long span gaps but are not a fixed option. They are something that **MUST** be removed to allow cleaning. Also, a denture may exacerbate gum disease if they are not maintained.
- Place a Bridge
Bridges are a fixed option that can restore small to moderate gaps **BUT** they can fail and failures may damage the supporting teeth to a level that makes them unrestorable, making the gap wider. Also, there is a 1 in 10 chance that the nerve will die after a tooth is used for a bridge, in which case the tooth would require a root filling to save it.
- Implants
They restore a gap with a fixed option that does not damage/harm any other tooth **BUT** it is the most expensive option. They are solely private and therefore not available on the NHS and require a referral to another practice. There are risks associated with implants which the dentist may briefly discuss with you but will be explained more by the implantologist (the person who places them)

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What does a bridge involve?

The procedure normally takes 2 visits and is similar to what is done for a crown.

On the first visit the supporting tooth/teeth are prepared for a bridge. This involves trimming the tooth/teeth down and taking an impression. A temporary dressing or temporary plastic crown is then placed over the tooth/teeth whilst your bridge is being made at a dental laboratory.

If your temporary comes off please contact us. Failure to do so may mean that your crown will not fit, meaning we will have to start your treatment from the beginning.

Your bridge will be ready to fit at your second appointment. At this appointment the temporary is removed and your new bridge is cemented into place. Sometimes we may need to make small adjustments to make the bridge when you bite your teeth together.

Does it hurt?

No. A local anaesthetic is used so it shouldn't feel much different to having an ordinary filling.

Things to remember:

Bridged teeth can be sensitive to hot and cold. This sensitivity should be temporary in nature. If it persists or gets worse then you should contact the practice. Bridging a tooth/teeth carries a risk to the nerve inside the tooth. There is a 1 in 10 chance that the nerve will die after a tooth is crowned, in which case the tooth would require a root filling to save it and may need a new crown

On the odd occasion the bridge will need further adjustment. If after a few days something doesn't feel right, please phone us.

