

Bridges

A bridge is a restoration which replaces or spans the space where one or more teeth have been lost. Your appearance, dental health, and the proper functioning of your mouth are all important reasons for a bridge.

At your first appointment for a bridge, impressions are taken and a temporary bridge is made and placed on the teeth involved. The temporary bridge protects the teeth while the custom bridge is being made. Temporary cement is used so that the bridge can be easily removed at your next appointment. If the temporary bridge comes off before the next appointment, place the temporary back on with Vaseline and contact our office. An appointment will be made, at no charge, to recement the temporary bridge. Drifting of the adjacent teeth may occur if the temporary is not replaced and the permanent bridge may not fit.

The new permanent bridge will be shaped and shaded especially to your teeth in color and fit. The temporary bridge is made to serve you temporarily, so its color and fit are not custom-matched to your teeth.

After your new permanent bridge is in place you may need a few days to adjust to it. If you feel the bite is not correctly balanced, please call for an appointment, at no charge, and we can adjust it.

Care for your new bridge with proper brushing and flossing is especially important to clean the areas under, around and between the bridge and your natural teeth. Dental floss threaders and special brushes can help you reach these areas.

Unforeseen conditions may arise during the procedure that requires a different procedure than set forth above.

Risks:

With the temporary and permanent bridge some discomfort may be experienced due to irritation of the area during treatment procedures. Sensitivity to hot, cold and pressure may also be experienced.

Subsequent pulp disease may occur requiring root canal therapy and/or extraction.

Decay, periodontal disease, pulp disease, and wear are all possible consequences of bridge placement on teeth.

Pulp exposure during preparation may occur. This could result in continued sensitivity and pain. This discomfort may resolve with time (possibly over several months), may be relieved with over-the-counter or prescription anti-inflammatory, or may require evaluation by a specialist (endodontist) and possible root canal treatment.

Periodontal gum disease can occur at any age, with or without bridges. Generally speaking bridges do not create or prevent gum disease.

Fractures to the materials may occur after placement. Small fractures may be repaired; large fractures may require a new bridge.

Dark lines at the gumline may appear on fixed bridges lined with metal. This is the metal edge of the crown. If the gum recedes after placement, this metal will show. Sometimes this can be corrected, other times a new bridge might be needed.

Recurrent tooth decay can occur after placement. This may be corrected with a filling or a new bridge may be needed.

Food impaction may occur under a bridge; this may be an unavoidable condition. Meticulous home care is required.

Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction may occur due to changes in the bite following bridges. This can usually be corrected, but in rare occasions may cause symptoms requiring extensive treatment.

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