

# Dental Bridges

A bridge replaces one or more missing teeth. It consists of an artificial tooth anchored to the adjacent natural teeth. If a tooth is lost through an accident, or is too badly decayed to save with a crown, a bridge may be the treatment of choice. Ask your dentist or prosthodontist about dental implants, which is another way of replacing missing teeth.

## Types of Dental Bridges

There are several types of dental bridges, each suited to different needs and conditions. The main types include Traditional, Cantilever, Maryland, and implant-supported bridges.



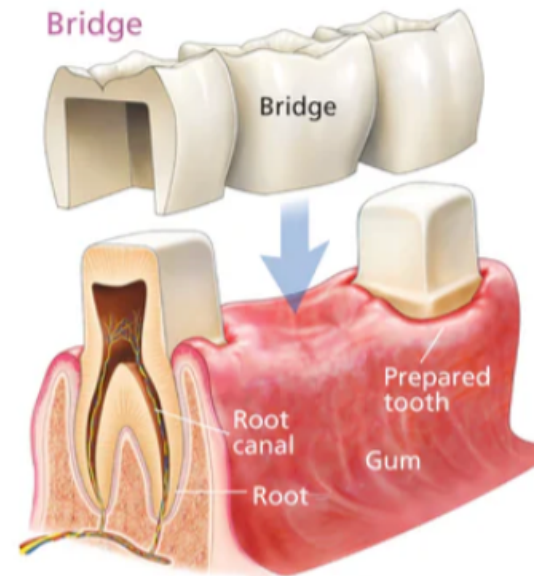
**Traditional Dental Bridge:** A traditional dental bridge involves creating crowns for the teeth on either side of the missing tooth and placing a pontic (false tooth) in between. This type is widely used due to its strength and stability. It requires healthy adjacent teeth to act as supports. The procedure typically involves two visits to the dentist: the first to prepare the abutment teeth and take impressions, and the second to place the permanent bridge.



**Cantilever Dental Bridge:** Cantilever bridges are used when there are adjacent teeth on only one side of the missing tooth or teeth. This type of bridge is less common and typically used in areas of the mouth that are under less stress from chewing. The cantilever bridge is anchored by a single crown on one side, making it suitable for situations where there is only one natural tooth available to support the bridge.



**Maryland Dental Bridge:** Also known as Resin-Bonded Bridges, Maryland Bridges use a metal or porcelain framework bonded to the back of adjacent teeth. They are often used for front teeth due to their minimal invasiveness. This type of bridge requires less preparation of the neighbouring teeth since it relies on metal or porcelain wings that are bonded to the back of the adjacent teeth.



*A crown (top) and a bridge (bottom) are strong and durable replacements for natural teeth*



## Implant-Supported Bridge:

Implant-Supported Bridges are anchored to dental implants rather than natural teeth, making them a more stable and a long-lasting solution. This type is ideal for people who are missing several teeth in a row. The procedure involves placing implants in the jawbone, which will serve as the anchors for the bridge. This process may take several months as it requires the implants to fuse with the bone before the bridge can be attached.



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## Procedure Details

All general dentists are qualified to fit bridges. A dentist with a specialist training in crown and bridge work is called a prosthodontist.

Based on your dental and medical history, X-ray examinations of your teeth and jaws, and an oral examination, your dentist or prosthodontist will recommend the treatment that is best for you.

In most cases, at least two appointments are needed for preparation and fitting of the bridge. Sometimes, a tooth may require Root Canal Treatment (RCT), and perhaps a post or foundation (build-up) before bridge treatment.

## Taking impressions of teeth

The dentist or prosthodontist takes an impression of your teeth to make a permanent record of the appearance and occlusion (bite). This is done using a scanning device, which creates a digital model of your mouth.

During this time, a temporary bridge may be placed to protect the exposed teeth and gums. Once the final bridge is ready, it is placed and adjusted for a perfect fit before being cemented in place.

Local anesthesia can be administered to ensure comfort during the procedure. The exact steps may vary depending on the type of bridge and the specific needs of the patient. For example, an implant-supported bridge requires surgical placement of the implants and a longer healing period before the bridge can be attached.

## Risks and Benefits

Dental bridges offer numerous advantages including;

- restoring functionality in chewing and speaking
- maintaining facial structure
- preventing the movement of adjacent teeth.
- they provide a natural-looking solution that can significantly enhance your smile and confidence.

However, there are potential drawbacks to consider.

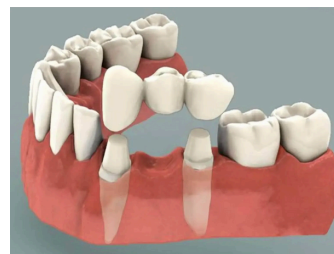
The process involves modifying the healthy teeth adjacent to the gap, which can increase the risk of decay under the crowns. Additionally, if the abutment teeth are not strong enough, the bridge may fail.

Proper oral hygiene is essential to prevent complications such as decay and gum disease. Regular dental check-ups are also crucial to monitor the condition of the bridge and the surrounding teeth.

## Longevity of Dental Bridges

With proper care, dental bridges can last between five to fifteen years. Regular maintenance and good oral hygiene are crucial for longevity. Factors that influence the lifespan of a dental bridge include the materials used, the quality of the dental work, and the patient's oral hygiene habits.

Dental bridges that are made from high-quality materials and placed by experienced professionals, tend to last longer. Routine dental visits are essential to monitor the condition of the bridge and to address any issues promptly. Patients should be diligent in maintaining their oral health to ensure the longevity of their dental bridge.



Discuss with your dentist which bridge best suits your dental needs.





# Dental Bridges Consent Form

## INFORMED CONSENT FOR DENTAL BRIDGES

I understand that treatment of dental conditions requiring a Dental Bridge includes certain risks and possible unsuccessful results, with even the possibility of failure. I agree to assume those risks, possible unsuccessful results and/or failure associate with, but not limited to the following: (even though care and diligence is exercised in the treatment of conditions requiring a dental bridge, there are no promises or guarantees of anticipated results or the longevity of the treatment).

**Reduction of the tooth structure:** In order to replace decayed or otherwise traumatised teeth, it is necessary to modify the existing tooth or teeth so that the bridge may be placed upon them. Tooth preparation will be done as conservatively as practical. In preparation of the teeth, anaesthetics are usually needed. At times there may be swelling, jaw muscle tenderness or even a resultant numbness of the tongue, lips, teeth, jaws and/or facial tissues which is usually temporary, or very rarely, permanent.

**Sensitivity of teeth:** Often, after the preparation of teeth or the reception of either crowns or bridges, the teeth may exhibit sensitivity. It may be mild to severe. This sensitivity may last only for a short period of time or may last for much longer periods. If it is persistent, notify the office immediately, as this sensitivity may be from some other source.

**Teeth with a bridge may require Root Canal Treatment:** Teeth, after being crowned, may develop a condition known as pulpitis or pulpal degeneration. The tooth or teeth may have been traumatised from an accident, deep decay, extensive preparation, or other causes. It is often necessary to do Root Canal Treatments in these teeth. If teeth remain too sensitive for long periods of time following crowning or bridge placement Root Canal Treatment may be necessary. Infrequently, the tooth (or teeth) may attain an abscess or otherwise not heal which may require Root Canal Treatment, root surgery, or possibly extraction.

**Breakage:** Bridges may possibly chip or break. Many factors could contribute to this situation such as chewing excessively hard materials, changes in biting forces, traumatic blows to the mouth, etc. Unobservable cracks may develop in the bridge from these causes, but the bridge may not actually break until chewing soft foods or possibly for no apparent reason. Breakage or chipping seldom occurs due to defective materials or construction unless it occurs soon after placement.

**Uncomfortable or strange feeling:** This may occur because of the differences between natural teeth and the artificial replacements. Most patients usually become accustomed to this feeling in time. In limited situations, muscle soreness or tenderness of the jaw joints (TMJ) may persist for indeterminate periods of time following placement of a dental bridge.



Learn more at [www.banffdentist.com](http://www.banffdentist.com)





# Dental Bridges Consent Form

## INFORMED CONSENT FOR DENTAL BRIDGES CONTINUED....

Longevity of Dental Bridges: There are many variables that determine 'how long' dental bridges can be expected to last. Among these are some of the factors mentioned in preceding paragraphs. Additionally, general health, good oral hygiene, regular dental checkups, diet, etc... can affect longevity. Because of this, no guarantees can be made or assumed to be made.

It is a patient's responsibility to seek attention from the dentist should any undue or unexpected problems occur. The patient must diligently follow any and all instructions, including the scheduling and attending all appointments. Failure to keep the cementation appointment can result in ultimate failure of the bridge to fit properly and an additional fee may be assessed.

I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the nature and purpose of bridge treatment and have received answers to my satisfaction. I voluntarily assume any and all possibly risks including those as listed above and including risk of substantial harm, if any, which may be associated with any phase of this treatment in hopes of obtaining the desired results, which may or may not be achieved. No guarantees or promises have been made to me concerning the results. The fees for service have been explained to me and are satisfactory.

By signing this document, I am freely giving my consent to allow and authorise my Doctor to render any treatment necessary and/or advisable to my dental conditions including the prescribing and administering of any medications and/or anaesthetics deemed necessary to my treatment.

Signature of patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of dental specialist: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

