

Consent — Fixed Bridges

Replacing a missing tooth with a fixed bridge

This form explains what the treatment involves, the benefits, the risks and the alternatives, so you can make an informed decision. Please read it, ask us anything you are unsure about, and sign at the end if you are happy to go ahead.

What this treatment is

A fixed bridge replaces a missing tooth by joining to the natural teeth either side (the 'abutments'), which are shaped to support it. It is cemented in place and not removable. It also helps keep other teeth in position and supports the face shape. It usually takes at least two visits: shaping and a mould, a temporary bridge, then cementing the final bridge. Please return promptly for fitting to reduce the risk of decay or other problems.

Why we may recommend it (the benefit)

A bridge replaces a missing tooth (or teeth) and restores normal chewing. It may also be replaced if damaged or decayed, to change the bite, or for appearance.

Alternatives

- A dental implant with an implant-supported crown.
- A removable partial denture (taken out for cleaning; held by the remaining teeth).
- No treatment — but teeth may then drift over time, causing chewing, gum or jaw-joint (TMJ) problems.

Risks and things that can happen

- The nerves in the supporting teeth can be irritated; they may be sensitive to hot and cold during or after.
- Root canal treatment may become necessary on a supporting tooth at any time and may be unavoidable; a bridge may not relieve your symptoms.
- Removing old fillings/decay may reveal a more serious problem needing gum surgery, root canal treatment, or extraction.
- You may notice slight bite changes; your jaw may be stiff and sore; the gum may be sore or recede after treatment.
- Smoking, habits like nail-biting and poor cleaning shorten how long a bridge lasts.

Local anaesthetic (the numbing injection)

You will have a local anaesthetic injection. Rarely there can be an allergic or other reaction, or temporary or (very rarely) lasting injury to nerves or blood vessels. The area may feel sore afterwards and your jaw may ache.

Finishing the treatment

Once a bridge is started you must return promptly to have it completed. If you do not, you risk decay, the need for root canal treatment, fracture and loss of the teeth involved.

Notes & customisation

Your consent

My consent. I have read and understood this information. I have had the chance to ask questions and have them answered. I understand what the treatment involves, its benefits and risks, the alternatives, and that I can refuse all or part of it at any time. I understand no guarantees have been made about the result. I agree to go ahead with this treatment, on the basis of this form together with what my dentist discusses and personalises with me on the visit, and the Home Visit Terms & Important Information that apply to all treatments.

Patient (or representative) name

Relationship to patient (if not the patient)

Patient / representative signature

Date

Dentist name

Dentist signature & date

Our **Home Visit Terms & Important Information** (which apply to all treatments) form part of this consent and are provided alongside it.