Advantages of Crown and Bridge Treatment

Crown and Bridge Treatment will restore lost teeth, support remaining teeth and help you maintain optimum dental health. We will evaluate your oral health and work to create the best treatment options for you.

Crown and bridge treatment:
- Restores your smile
- Matches the color and appearance of your natural teeth
- Maintains the natural bite
- Maintains the shape of your face
- Prevents unnatural stress on other teeth
- Keeps other teeth in their proper place
- Prevents shifting and tilting of adjacent teeth
- Restores your ability to properly chew and speak
- Discourages further dental decay and periodontal disease

When your smile looks and feels great, you’ll feel more confident about your appearance.
What is Crown and Bridge Treatment?

Crown and bridge treatment restores lost teeth, supports remaining teeth and helps you maintain a healthy attractive smile. Crown and bridge treatment blends:

- Aesthetics—color match and appearance
- Form—the contour of the bridge must conform to the surrounding tissue in a natural healthy position
- Function—chewing and biting accuracy

This smile is restored by combining three porcelain veneers and a porcelain fused-to-metal bridge. These teeth are restored not only for better appearance and function, but also for greater durability.
Saving a Tooth with a Crown

A **crown**—sometimes called a “cap”—is a tooth-like covering placed over a carefully prepared existing tooth. Crowns are used to strengthen, restore or improve the appearance of your natural tooth. In addition, they are used to accommodate the attachment of a fixed bridge when the tooth structure is damaged, cracked or broken.

Types of crowns:
- Porcelain Fused-to-Metal Crowns
- Full Ceramic Crowns
- Full Gold Crowns
- Partial Coverage Gold or Ceramic Crowns

Before

Full ceramic crowns with bridge cover four bottom teeth for consistent size and luster.

Cast-gold onlay for maximum strength, function and durability in non-aesthetic areas.

Porcelain fused-to-metal full crown for strength and long-term function in aesthetic regions.

Pressed ceramic onlays and crowns for strength and optimum aesthetics.

Art of Smile
Replacing Missing Teeth with a Bridge

A bridge is a custom device anchored to neighboring teeth to replace one or more missing teeth. When a lost tooth is replaced with a bridge, the teeth on either side of the missing one must be carefully prepared to serve as anchors (abutments) for replaced teeth.

Fixed Bridges

In this case, upper front teeth are missing. They were replaced with a resin-bonded fixed bridge. (The patient wanted to retain the space between his front teeth.)

To replace a back tooth, a porcelain fused-to-metal fixed bridge is attached to permanent teeth. This bridge is created to match the color and shape of the natural teeth.
Fixed Bridges

In this case, a porcelain fused to a metal bridge is used because it is both strong and can be matched to the color of the natural teeth.

1. Before: Upper front tooth is missing.
2. Adjacent teeth are prepared to be used as abutments to support a fixed bridge.
3. The porcelain fused-to-metal fixed bridge.
4. After: Missing tooth restored with the bridge.
Three-Unit Porcelain Fused-to-Metal Fixed Bridge

1. The two abutment teeth have been carefully prepared to support a fixed bridge.

2. Fixed bridge shown on plaster model.

3. The porcelain fused-to-metal fixed bridge, ready to be placed in mouth.

4. Result—missing tooth now restored with the bridge.
Dental Implants

Benefits of Dental Implants.
Dental implants are the permanent way for you to replace missing teeth, with a look and feel that’s very close to natural teeth. Implants are metal posts or frames surgically placed into the bone beneath your gums. The implants fuse with the jawbone providing stable support to artificial teeth, preventing individual teeth, bridges or dentures from shifting in your mouth.

Implant supported teeth:
- Allow you to speak, smile and eat with confidence
- Are comfortable and stay in place
- Function, look and feel like natural teeth
- Do not need adjacent teeth for support

Root function in a natural tooth.

Dental implant replaces a missing tooth’s root and is restored with an artificial tooth.
Single Tooth Implants

A single tooth implant looks like your natural teeth and does not involve treatment to adjacent teeth. The single tooth implant offers you many benefits over traditional treatments used to replace a single missing tooth.

1. Missing tooth to be replaced with single tooth implant.
2. Implant has been placed into the bone and healing is complete.
3. Metal abutment is attached and ready to “anchor” porcelain crown.
4. Porcelain crown in place. Aesthetics and function have been restored.

Advantages include improved aesthetics, improved hygiene access and fewer long-term costs.
Dental Implant—Partial Dentures

Ordinarily, a partial denture is used to replace the missing space when you’ve lost some of your teeth. However, it is now possible to use dental implants as an anchor for removable partial dentures for added stability and improved function.

1. Implants have been placed and undisturbed during the “healing phase.”

2. Healing phase of treatment is complete and the dentist can now attach the appropriate retentive fixtures to the implants.

3. “Retentive bar” is attached to the implants.

4. Removable partial denture will “snap” on and off the “retentive bar.”
This case required three retentive features processed into the denture base to hold the denture firmly in place. The final result is a stable denture that “snaps” in and holds firm. The patient can remove the denture to clean the gums and retention bar underneath.

Full Denture Placed Over Dental Implants

Full denture implants may be recommended when you have lost all your teeth. We will determine the number and spacing that is best for your individual situation, and place them in the upper and lower jaw to best support the full denture.

After the healing phase is complete, a retentive bar is attached to implants with threaded fasteners.
Full Fixed Denture Over Dental Implants

A full denture can be “fixed” comfortably to the implants with threaded fasteners.

Treatment benefits include:

• Denture stability
• Patient confidence

• Ability to regain natural bite

To maintain good oral hygiene, patients are encouraged to have dental checkups and cleanings every four to six months and to maintain proper home care.

After the healing phase is complete, the implants are ready for the full denture to be directly attached to them. This picture shows implants that are ready for full denture placement.

This lower full denture is fully placed. The full denture is fastened to the implants with threaded fasteners.
Caring For Your Crowns, Bridges and Implants

When you have any of these restorations, you need to be vigilant about your oral health. And because your gums literally “frame” your smile, you must practice preventive oral health to preserve your natural and cosmetic teeth.

We recommend:

- Floss twice daily to remove plaque and debris
- Use a floss threader to increase access
- Clean between the teeth with interproximal dental brushes
- Brush for 2 minutes twice a day
- Avoid sticky foods like caramels, gum and taffy, and crunchy foods like hard candy — and never chew ice cubes
- See your dentist for regularly scheduled appointments