

The Parkstone Dental Practice

Replacement of Missing Teeth

Your dentist has given you this advice sheet to help explain why it is necessary to replace missing teeth.

Why replace missing teeth?

In most circumstances missing teeth need to be replaced as soon as possible following extraction. There are many reasons for this: There may be disruption to the bite resulting in over-eruption or tipping of adjacent teeth. This makes aesthetic restoration of the missing tooth much more difficult, at a later date.

There are many options, which can seem to be quite confusing. The aim of this advice sheet is to help you make sense of this difficult area.

Teeth can be replaced in many ways:

Dentures: This is often the simplest and least expensive option. Dentures can be made of metal or acrylic. Your dentist will advise you on which is the most suitable in your case. The advantages of dentures are that they give the appearance of replacing lost bone, an inevitable consequence of tooth loss. This means that where there are many missing teeth a denture will restore facial profile.

Bridges: These are fixed restorations and are used to replace one or a few missing teeth. Your dentist will prepare neighbouring teeth and need to take some impressions to construct your tailor-made restorations. Some bridges require minimal tooth preparation and are bonded to neighbouring teeth with dental adhesive.

Implants: These are titanium metal 'screws' that are placed into prepared sites of jaw bone which then supports crowns, bridges or dentures. They do involve a surgical procedure and subsequent construction of a dental restoration. They are probably the most costly option but have the advantage of not compromising the adjacent teeth.

Ultimately you, the patient, in consultation with your dentist will find the best option for your clinical situation. If you have any further question please do not hesitate to call the practice.



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