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The Doctor is in

Dental Services

Consequences of tooth loss



Losing your teeth not only affect what you can eat, your health problems, it also directly affects your self-esteem as tooth loss impinges on your smile and the way your face looks.

The real problem with tooth loss is the bone loss that comes with it. When teeth are lost or extracted, the bone that previously supported those teeth no longer serves a purpose and gradually melts away. Tooth loss can cause a 25 per cent decrease in bone width in the first year alone and more in subsequent years.

When a tooth is missing from the jaw, the opposing tooth can over erupt and drift down, or up, into the gap. The surrounding teeth begin to drift into the gap created by the missing tooth/teeth. This can make replacing missing tooth far more difficult in future and also creates bite problems which can lead to jaw issues.

The following are three options your dentist may suggest, depending on your needs. It is important to choose a treatment that's right for you.

1. Removable denture

A common way to replace missing teeth. They tend to be the cheapest way

to replace missing teeth. But the disadvantages of dentures will be frequent movement when eating, talking, laughing and smiling. It can damage the gums and the bone often continues to shrink.

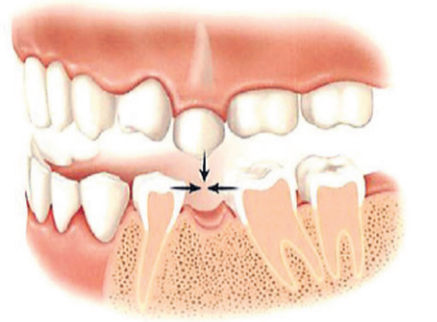
2. Dental bridge

This consists of two crowns, which are placed on your natural teeth either side of the space, with a false tooth in the middle. Your dentist will prepare your natural teeth on either side of the space for the crowns to fit on top. These crowns are permanently attached to a false tooth in the centre. But, it does not prevent the bone and gums from shrinking.

3. Using a dental implant to replace missing teeth

A dental implant is designed to replicate the natural root and crown of your tooth, the dental implant is a custom made crown which is designed to look exactly like your surrounding teeth. This procedure preserves the gum and bone with no damage to adjacent teeth. The most cost-effective long term solution and high average life expectancy

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