



BENHILL DENTAL PRACTICE

# Mind the gap



Our dentists will always endeavour to save a tooth rather than extract it but sometimes this is just not possible. So, before you have your tooth extracted, what treatments are there for replacing missing teeth?

## Your first option is...

...to do nothing. You will be left with a gap and, although your mouth can still function without a tooth, this can lead to problems. Teeth tend to drift into the gap and this can cause your bite to become misaligned, sometimes causing pain, tooth wear and breakages, and headaches. Food can get caught, and if not cleaned properly, can harbour bacteria.

The bone that holds your teeth in place can shrink causing your face to have a sunken appearance and the loss of many teeth can be ageing. (more follows...)

**Call 020 3827 4522 for a review to discuss your next steps**

# What else could I do?

Where a single tooth or only a few teeth are missing your options are:

- A removable partial denture
- A resin-bonded bridge
- A fixed bridge
- An implant supported crown or bridge

Where all your teeth are missing:

- Removable full denture
- Implant supported denture - a removable denture supported by implants making it more secure and providing improved function and comfort
- Implant supported fixed bridge

## Could implants be the right choice for me?

### What is a dental implant?

An implant replaces a tooth with a titanium rod, to which a specially-crafted new tooth is fixed. In time, the implant 'root' will bond with your jawbone to create a firm foundation for a tooth, bridge or denture.

### How long do they last?

In a healthy mouth with healthy bone, implant roots can last as long as natural teeth. The crowns or bridges can last a decade or more but will eventually wear and need replacing. Implants need caring for as natural teeth do and require regular reviews to optimise longevity.

### What are the risks?

We will plan your case meticulously to minimise the risk of any damage to nerves or adjacent teeth. Most patients are surprised how straightforward, simple and painless treatment is. Minimal discomfort is normal and this is usually resolved by the following day. As a surgical procedure, there is a risk of bruising or swelling.

### Can implants fail?

As with all treatments, a small proportion do fail. It's more common where the bone is poor quality or infection is present. Implant work, like all treatments, will not succeed without good oral hygiene. Smoking is a major factor in failures.

### What should I expect?

Following an initial consultation to assess your suitability, explain the process and answer your questions, details will be given about the different stages and risks involved. You will then usually require x-rays and study casts of your teeth. It is sometimes necessary for bone repair to be carried out. Once your teeth and gums are healthy the implants will be placed under local anaesthetic. The procedure takes 1 or 2 hours depending on the number of implants. Full integration between bone and implant takes between 3 and 4 months.

Call us  
today  
for  
details

Dental implants look, feel & work just like the real thing