

Replacing a Single Tooth: Implant Crown vs Dental Bridge

There are two options for replacing a missing tooth, an implant crown, or a dental bridge. Both of these restorations are ‘fixed’, meaning they are non-removable from your mouth (unlike a removable denture). They are both great replacements for missing teeth, enhancing your chewing function and your smile.



What is an implant crown? An implant crown is supported by a dental implant (similar to a screw), which is surgically placed within your jaw. This allows the implant crown to replace a tooth at no expense to the neighboring teeth. An implant is the <u>healthiest way to replace a missing tooth</u>, but it may not always be suitable.	What is a dental bridge? A dental bridge replaces a missing tooth by using neighboring teeth to support the replacement tooth. The removal of some tooth structure from the neighboring teeth is required in order for the bridge to fit on top. For that reason, we hesitate to use perfectly healthy teeth as anchors for a bridge. However, if the neighboring teeth could benefit from a crown, a bridge is a good fit.
Timeline for Implant Crowns: An implant crown typically takes 4-5 appointments over a <u>5-6 month</u> period to complete. This time is required for healing as your jawbone secures the implant.	Timeline for Bridges: A bridge takes 2 appointments over <u>2 weeks</u> to complete. This offers a much more immediate solution compared to implants.
Factors to Consider: • Implants may not be suitable for people with certain health conditions or on specific medications. Including diabetes, osteoporosis, and some cancers. • Implant crowns may discolour the gum beneath the tooth. Therefore, it may not be suitable for front teeth in some patients.	Factors to Consider: • Since a bridge uses the neighboring teeth for support, those anchoring teeth feel greater chewing forces than implants. • Bridges are harder to clean than implants, so a little extra effort is required with the at-home care.

