



VS



DENTAL IMPLANTS VS FIXED PARTIAL DENTURES

WHICH IS BETTER?
HOW TO CHOOSE?

Dental implants and **Fixed Partial Dentures**

(also known as fixed bridges) are two common options for replacing missing teeth.

But first, one should know *what are Dental Implants & Fixed Partial Dentures/Fixed Bridges?*

Dental Implants are artificial tooth roots made of titanium that are surgically placed into the jawbone. A crown is then attached to the implant, creating a natural-looking and durable replacement tooth. Thus, they provide a foundation for individual artificial teeth (crowns) or implant-supported dentures.

The other one is **fixed dentures/bridges**. Bridges consist of one or more artificial teeth (pontics) supported by adjacent natural teeth or dental crowns (abutments). They are cemented or bonded onto the adjacent teeth to bridge the gap caused by missing teeth.

While both aim to restore the **functionality** and **aesthetics** of your smile, they have notable differences. **Let's compare the two and discuss how to choose between them based on specific situations.**

1. Treatment Process:

- **Dental Implants:** Surgical procedure where the implant is inserted into the jawbone, followed by a healing period (osseointegration) to allow the implant to fuse with the bone. Once healed, an abutment is placed on the implant, and a custom-made crown is attached.
- **Fixed Partial Dentures:** The process involves preparing the adjacent teeth by removing a small portion of their enamel. Impressions are taken, and a dental laboratory creates a bridge that fits the gap. The bridge is then cemented or bonded onto the prepared teeth.

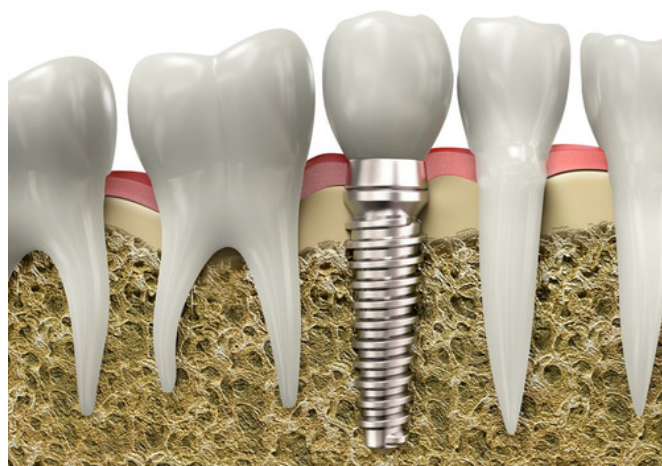


2. Aesthetics and Natural Feel:

- **Dental Implants:** Implants closely mimic the appearance and feel of natural teeth. They provide excellent aesthetics, stability, and functionality, allowing for comfortable chewing and speaking.
- **Fixed Partial Dentures:** Bridges can provide satisfactory aesthetics, but they may not offer the same level of natural feel as implants. They may require special care while eating certain foods.

3. Bone Health and Preservation:

- **Dental Implants:** Implants stimulate the jawbone, preventing bone loss and preserving its structure. They help maintain facial aesthetics and prevent the adjacent teeth from shifting.
- **Fixed Partial Dentures:** Bridges do not provide direct stimulation to the jawbone, which may lead to bone resorption over time.



Choosing between dental implants and fixed partial dentures depends on various factors:

- **Oral Health:** Dental implants typically require healthy gums and a sturdy jawbone for successful placement. If you have gum disease or insufficient bone structure, you may need preliminary treatments before opting for implants. In such cases, a dental bridge might be a more suitable immediate solution.
- **Adjacent Teeth:** If the teeth adjacent to the gap already need crowns or have large fillings, a dental bridge can address both the missing tooth and the existing dental issues. In contrast, dental implants focus solely on the replacement tooth without affecting adjacent healthy teeth.



Bridges Damage Adjacent Teeth



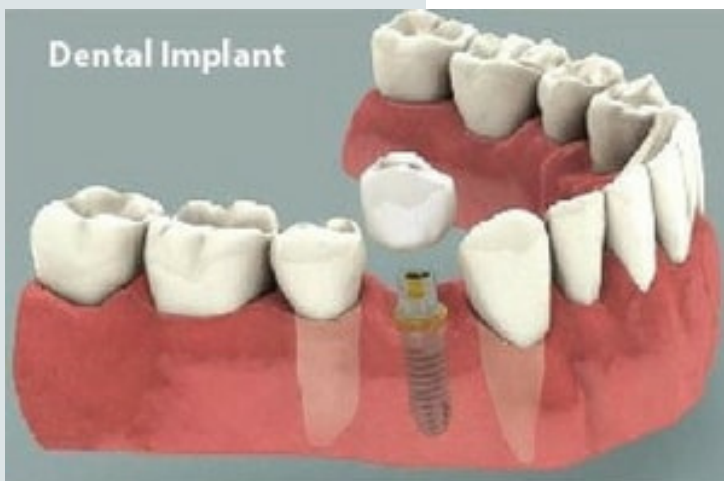
Implants Protect Adjacent Teeth



- **Cost:** Dental implants are typically more expensive initially due to the surgical procedure and the materials involved. However, they often require less maintenance and have a longer lifespan. Bridges may be a more cost-effective option in the short term but may incur additional costs for repairs or replacement in the future

- **Longevity:** Dental implants have a higher success rate and can last longer compared to dental bridges. If long-term durability is a priority for you, implants might be the better choice.
- **Aesthetics and Function:** Dental implants offer superior aesthetics and functionality, closely resembling natural teeth. They provide stability for chewing and speaking, while bridges may have some limitations in terms of stability and biting force.





In summary, dental implants are generally preferred when:

- **There is sufficient jawbone and gum health.**
- **Adjacent teeth are healthy.**
- **Long-term durability is a priority.**
- **Superior aesthetics and functionality are desired.**



Dental bridges may be a suitable choice when:

- **Jawbone or gum health is compromised.**
- **Adjacent teeth require dental crowns.**
- **Immediate restoration is needed with a lower upfront cost.**



- Ultimately, it is crucial to consult with a dental professional who can evaluate your specific circumstances, conduct a thorough examination, and provide personalized recommendations based on your oral health, budget, and treatment goals.