

Alternatives to Implants

Dentures

Advantages: -

- Treatment is completed in a few weeks
- Unlikely to need surgery
- There are a low cost option



Disadvantages: -

- May be unstable, particularly when eating
- Sometimes not easy to get on with
- They accumulate plaque or food more readily
- Do not prevent bone loss



Fixed Bridges

Advantages: -

- Treatment is completed in a few weeks.
- Unlikely to need surgery.
- Teeth are fixed and immovable so more secure.

Disadvantages: -

- May require cutting healthy teeth.
- If one bridge support is compromised, the entire bridge may need to be discarded and replaced.
- Can be difficult to keep clean as flossing is not easy.
- There is a high cost involved.
- They do not prevent bone loss.
- There is a greater risk of decay in the teeth that hold up the bridge.



Adhesive Bridges

Advantages: -

- Treatment is completed in a few weeks.
- Unlikely to need surgery.
- Teeth are fixed so more secure.
- There is minimal or no teeth cutting required.

Disadvantages: -

- Can only be used to replace front teeth.
- Can come off as they are only glued on.
- Does not prevent bone loss.
- Can be difficult to keep clean as flossing is harder.



Implant Supported Crowns / Bridges / Dentures

Advantages: -

- Implants are fixed and do not move.
- Implants do not get decayed.
- Does not require cutting adjacent teeth.
- Easier to clean than a bridge when replacing a single tooth.
- Well documented success and longevity.
- Prevents further bone loss.

Disadvantages: -

- Longer treatment time.
- Requires surgery.
- Higher cost.
- Can be difficult to clean if several implants are bridged.

