

COMMON DENTAL TREATMENTS WHEN NO TEETH REMAIN IN A DENTAL ARCH

1. COMPLETE DENTURES (CONVENTIONAL)

- inevitable bone change beneath dentures happens with time
- relines are required to improve fit
- removed after meals and at night
- some patients choose to improve retention with adhesives
- replacement in 5-7 years due to tooth wear, stain and deterioration of fit.
- made of acrylics and composite denture teeth



2. IMPLANT OVERDENTURES (SNAP ONTO IMPLANTS)

- Require 4+ Implants in the upper jaw
- Require 2+ Implants in the lower jaw
- Often require a reinforcing framework to reduce risk of fracture. (see photos)
- Upper denture can have palate removed (see photos)
- No adhesives
- removed after meals and at night
- made of acrylic and composite denture teeth – reinforcement with chrome/ glass fibers
- Retentive inserts wear with time and use and require replacement – abutments can wear and require replacement (many influencing factors).
- professional hygiene every 6-12 months
- Replacement or significant maintenance in 5-7 years due to tooth wear, stain and deterioration of fit.



3. BAR OVERDENTURES (SNAP ONTO A BAR)

- Requires 4+ Implants per jaw
- Requires considerable space between the teeth and the gum
- Framework reinforcement is required
- rest on the bar.. not the gums
- removed after meals and at night
- upper denture can have palate removed
- made of acrylic and composite denture teeth – reinforcement with chrome, titanium
- Retentive inserts wear with time and use and require replacement
- Replacement or significant maintenance in 5-7 years due to tooth wear, stain and deterioration of fit.
- Bar is brushed and flossed in your mouth – professional hygiene every 6-12 months



Bar Overdentures



4. FIXED DENTURES (BRIDGES)

- Require 4+ Implants (all on 4, 6 etc)
- smallest prosthesis (much smaller than dentures or overdentures)
- removable only by a dentist (held in by set screws attaching to the implants)
- brushed and flossed in your mouth – professional hygiene every 6-12 months
- 3 major styles
 - i. acrylic and composite denture teeth – reinforcement with chrome, titanium
 - lowest expense, highest wear and staining and denture tooth fracture.
 - commonly used as a temporary or day of implant surgery bridge.
 - ii. metal framework overlaid with porcelain
 - highest expense, porcelain chipping common
 - not currently recommended in most cases due to zirconia (below)
 - iii. zirconia (ceramics)
 - moderate expense, minimal to no wear, low staining (best hygiene)
 - challenging fabrication
 - lifespan expected to exceed 10 years (these are relatively new)

