



Tooth Replacement Options

because smiles are important to us!

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DENTAL CLINIC

Your Solutions

Whether you have had a recent extraction OR perhaps a missing tooth for a few years, you have options to replace your missing tooth/teeth, and we would love to help you make the right choice.

This booklet will discuss a few options:

Dentures

Acrylic Dentures

Chrome Dentures

Bridges

Maryland Bridges

Fixed Bridges

Dental Implants

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Dentures

Acrylic dentures consist of the denture teeth attached to an acrylic base plate.

Advantages:

- Usually the cheapest option
- Easy to add teeth on in the future
- Easy to take in and out

Disadvantages:

- Not the most comfortable option
- Can be unstable
- Retention in the mouth can be difficult
- Can feel big/bulky
- Can affect chewing experience



↖ **Acrylic**

Cobalt Chrome dentures have a metal base plate or framework that sits on and around the natural teeth onto which denture teeth are attached by acrylic.

Advantages:

- More comfortable
- Smaller, thinner and more streamlined than acrylic
- The best grip (retention)
- Better chewing experience
- Clasps to increase grip

Disadvantages:

- More expensive than acrylic
- Adding teeth can be difficult
- Can be bent if sat on



↖ **Chrome**

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Fixed Bridge

A dental bridge essentially bridges a gap in your mouth. It involves replacing a missing tooth with a false tooth which is bonded to the natural teeth on either side of the gap. Dental bridges offer a permanent solution for missing teeth without surgery. Plus with porcelain finishes available, your new tooth could be almost indistinguishable from the natural teeth surrounding it.

The downside, however, is that that bridges like this require significant adjustment of the teeth supporting the bridge which can result in the need for further treatments, like root canal, long term.

A **fixed bridge** is the most common type of dental bridge as it provides a strong, durable way to replace missing teeth. This type of bridge uses neighbouring teeth (one or two) to fill the gap with a fake tooth, also known in dental terms as a 'pontic'. It provides a strong and durable option to replace a missing tooth.



Maryland Bridge

A **maryland bridge**, rather than being fitted over the neighbouring teeth with crowns, uses metal 'wings' on each side or one side which are bonded to the inner edge of the neighbouring teeth. This bridge has the advantage of preserving the neighbouring teeth.

The benefit of this is little or no adjustment of the teeth. This is only an option in some parts of the mouth though.



Dental Implants

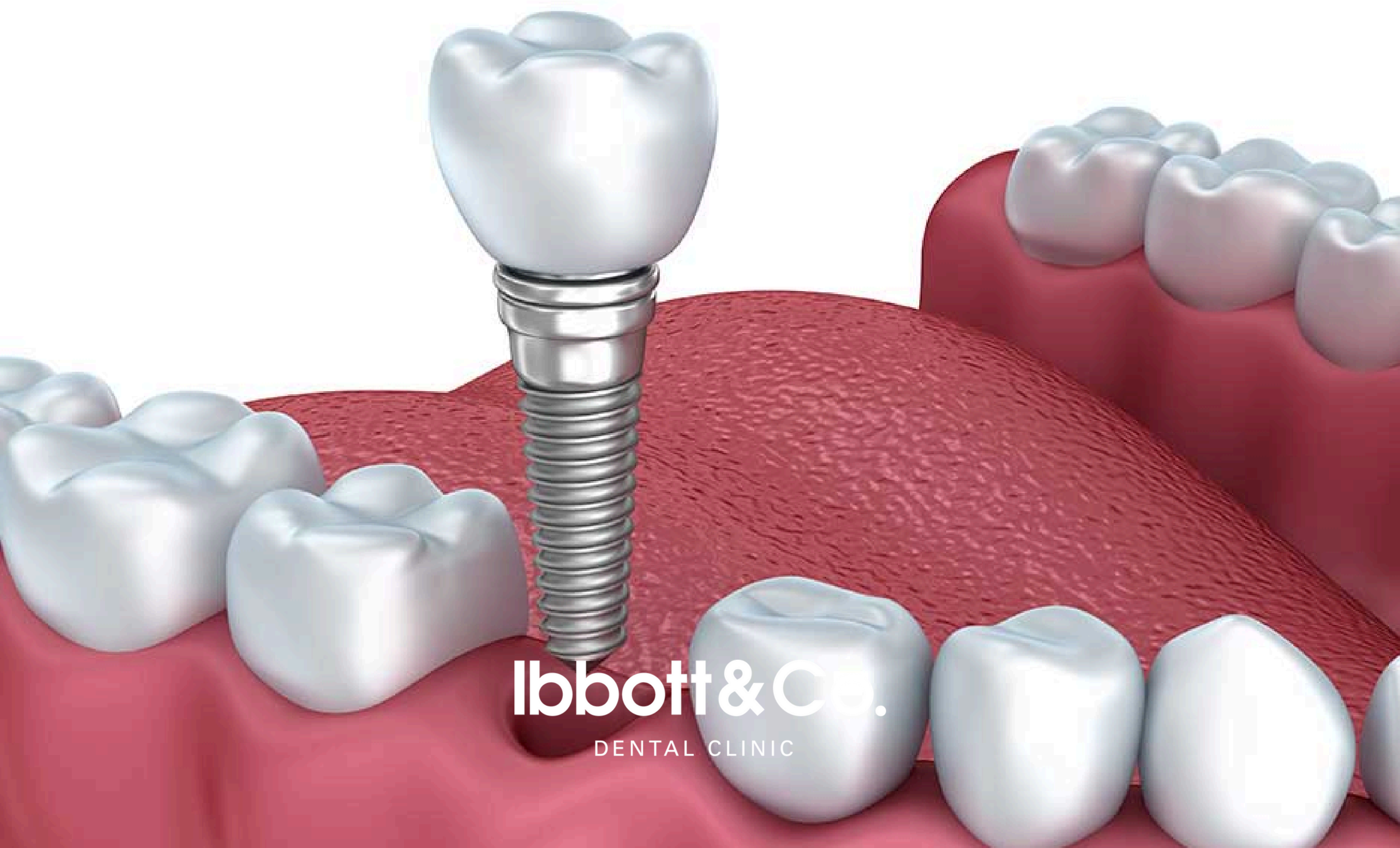
Dental implants are the most expensive way to replace a missing tooth, however, they are the option that looks and functions just like your natural teeth. A dental implant is a titanium screw that's placed directly into your jawbone, replacing your missing tooth root. After it's fitted, the bone surrounding your implant will gradually fuse to it, holding the implant firmly in place. A false tooth (a crown) which matches the colour and shape of your existing teeth is then fitted to the top of the implant, leaving you with a fixed solution and a natural looking smile.

Advantages:

- Maintain a strong jawbone
- Prevent facial muscle sagging
- Allow normal talking and chewing
- Durable and long-lasting

Disadvantages:

- Most expensive option
- Does involve a surgical appointment
- Not everyone is suitable



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Not replacing a missing tooth

If you decide not to replace a missing tooth you need to be aware of the risks involved. Tooth loss can cause significant dental problems and other health issues, particularly if you don't replace it on time:

Problems in eating and speaking

Missing teeth can cause issues with eating, chewing, and speaking. The types of food that you can eat can be limited with fewer teeth and also speech may change as the teeth are very important in forming sounds when we talk.

Effects on the other teeth

The rest of the teeth will have to work harder when teeth are lost and you are statistically 50% more likely to lose teeth adjacent to a missing tooth. Also the teeth opposite the lost one can start to drift down into the space as can be seen in the image lower right.

Causes orthodontic problems like teeth misalignment

If you delay the replacement of your missing tooth, it can lead to changes in the alignment of the adjacent teeth. Over time if you do not replace a missing tooth other teeth could gradually drift towards each other.

Causes bone loss in the jaws

Loss of a tooth will affect the surrounding bone in your jaw. The jaw bone is only there to support the teeth and without the teeth the bone will start to erode away. Additionally you may experience facial collapse after tooth loss since bone loss may start changing your smile and facial structure, causing a sunken look.

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