



Crowns and Bridges

At The Practice we pride ourselves on ensuring our patients are well informed on their dental health and treatment options. This information sheet is aimed to give you general information and risks involved with procedures. Your dentist will be able to identify your specific risks and benefits. As always our providers will endeavour to manage any undesired outcomes for you and perform procedures with the highest level of safety and care for you.

WHAT IS A CROWN?

A crown is a cap placed over your existing tooth in order to provide protection, strength and aesthetics. Crowns are permanently fixed into your mouth and help to restore function and aesthetics. There are many indications for a crown ranging from post-root canal treatment, cracking, large fillings and weak tooth structure as well as cosmetic indications. Crowns are also used on top of dental implants.

WHAT IS A BRIDGE?

A bridge is a restoration that replaces a missing tooth. It is multiple crowns that are joined together. There are adjacent supporting teeth which are crowned with a crown to replace a missing tooth which is connected in the middle "the bridge."

WHAT ARE CROWNS AND BRIDGES MADE OF?

There are many different materials and techniques that are used to prepare your tooth for a crown or bridge. Your Dentist will talk to you about the benefits of each and decide together which option is best for your case. Generally, crowns and bridges are constructed out of porcelain, metal, a gold alloy or even a combination of the two.

AM I A CANDIDATE FOR CROWNS / OR BRIDGES?

If you have a decayed, damaged, weak or discoloured tooth, a crown may be the ideal option for you. If you have a missing tooth, there are various ways to replace the tooth and your dentist would have discussed this with you. A bridge is one of those options as well as a removable denture or implant.

Your dentist will have asked you about your general health and any current medications that you are taking; in some cases there may be a reason these treatments are not the best option for you. If you're committed to caring for your oral health, crowns and bridges can be a great long term and highly successful treatment.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Firstly, your dentist will ask you questions regarding your health and the particular problems you have identified. The dentist will assess and document the condition of your mouth, the gaps around the tooth (or teeth) involved.

A mould of your mouth or a 3D scan will be taken, and any x-rays taken will help in planning the best option for you. Once your dentist has all the information, they will present you with options. It is important to ask any questions if you do not understand what is being explained.

When you are happy to proceed,, your dentist will prepare your tooth (or teeth) for either a crown or a bridge. This involves shaving a small amount of tooth structure from the sides and top of your tooth (teeth) to allow enough space and strength for the prosthesis (crown). Once the preparation has been completed, another mould or 3D will be taken of your teeth. You will then have a temporary crown or bridge made and placed to protect your tooth (or teeth) while specialised laboratories construct your crown in a shade of your choosing, some photos may be taken to assist.

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The temporary crown or bridge is constructed to protect your tooth (or teeth) and gums between the preparation visit and the cementation visit. However, this temporary crown or bridge is not durable enough to last a long period of time. Once the crown or bridge has been constructed, your dentist will remove the temporary crown or bridge, clean the tooth/teeth and cement the final crown or bridge.

As a result, crown and bridges generally require your attendance for two appointments.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE?

There are risks involved in any dental procedure. The risks you take are reliant upon the treatment options recommended to you. Therefore, it is important to ask questions before and during your treatment.

The major risks and complications can be summarised as:

- Teeth may be sensitive to hot and cold items for a short while, this varies from case to case. Your teeth are usually (unless root canal treated) living tissues and any dental procedure can cause inflammation and some irritation. A postoperative review appointment can be around if you experience sensitivity
- Preparation of your tooth (or teeth) and the placement of crowns and/ or bridges are not able to be reversed as your tooth (or teeth) have been modified and reshaped during the procedure.
- Sometimes when teeth are being prepared for crowns and/ or bridges, it does become clear that the nerves of the teeth have been affected. If this occurs, your dentist will discuss further necessary treatments with you. It can mean the best treatment option is to complete a root canal treatment prior to crown placement, or that it is a possibility that it may be indicated in the future, your dentist can let you know the chances specifically related to your tooth.
- Over time, gums often recede. This may mean that the edge of the crown becomes visible. If this happens, you may wish to have your crown or bridge replaced at your own cost.
- If you currently have a denture, it can be difficult to make a crown and/ or bridge that fits. While minor adjustments are possible, sometimes a new denture is the only solution.
- If your tooth is root-filled, there is always the possibility of re-infection of the tooth roots, independent of any crown and/ or bridge work. This may require further treatment to the root canals of the tooth.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN TREATMENT IS COMPLETED?

Good oral hygiene for your entire mouth is always a priority, this is no different when looking after a crown or bridge. The longevity of a crown can be affected if proper home care and regular dental checks are not maintained. If excessive plaque sits around the margins of the crowns decay can start. Professional reviews will ensure margins are intact and no chips or fractures are present in the crown.

DO I NEED A SPECIALIST?

Your dentist will carefully assess you and will refer you to a specialist if you wish.



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I, _____ consent to a:

Crown Bridge

On tooth/teeth _____.

I understand that my dentist _____ will be providing my care.

I have read (or had read to me) the contents above including benefits, risks, limitations and inconveniences.

I am aware of the general risks of treatment as listed in the information sheet. I have also been informed of the specific risks to me, these include:

I have had the opportunity to ask my dentist questions and discuss my concerns. I understand the expected outcomes.

My dentist has discussed other treatment options and I have received a written quotation of the estimated cost of my treatment.

I consent to the taking of photographs, study models, and x-rays (before, during, and after treatment) to assist in the planning and to progress objectives (if required)

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Dentist Signature: _____ Date: _____