

# ***A short guide to dental bridges***



## **Bridges**

### **What are they?**

A bridge is another way of replacing a missing tooth or missing teeth. A bridge has an artificial tooth to fill your space which is then fastened to one or both of the teeth surrounding that space. Bridges usually have a metal frame which is hidden by covering it with porcelain. The porcelain is shade matched to the rest of your smile. To secure the bridge in place it is fastened to the neighbouring teeth via a small metal wing or a crown.

Bridges are classified by the part that holds the bridge in place either as an Adhesive Bridge or as a Conventional bridge.

### **What is an Adhesive Bridge**

A small metal wing is attached to the artificial tooth. This wing is firmly bonded to one of the neighbouring teeth, this holds the artificial tooth in place.

### **Advantages**

This type of bridge requires very little work to be carried out on the neighbouring tooth, therefore you spend less time in the dental chair and there is less risk of complications.

Any preparation of a tooth for a crown or bridge carries a small risk of that tooth dying. The less preparation you have to carry out on a tooth, the greater the likelihood of the tooth surviving and remaining healthy.

If there is any problem with this cementing process or wear and tear to the bridge, it will drop out, this is a good thing because then you will know that there is a problem and can visit your dentist to have it rectified.

### **Disadvantages**

One of the advantages is also the main disadvantage of this type of bridge. That is if the adhesive fails, the bridge will fall out, however, should this happen, it is a fairly easy matter to have the bridge re-cemented. Many adhesive bridge wearers carry a small plastic denture to use in an emergency should the bridge debond. The fitting process and design of this type of bridge is also crucial and needs to be carried out to a high standard. Not everyone is suitable for this type of bridge.

### **Cost**

For up to date fees for Adhesive Bridges, please visit our web site.

## What is a Conventional Bridge

In a conventional bridge the artificial tooth is secured in place by joining it to a crown that fits over one or more of the neighbouring teeth. The artificial tooth and a crown are firmly joined together usually by metal framework.

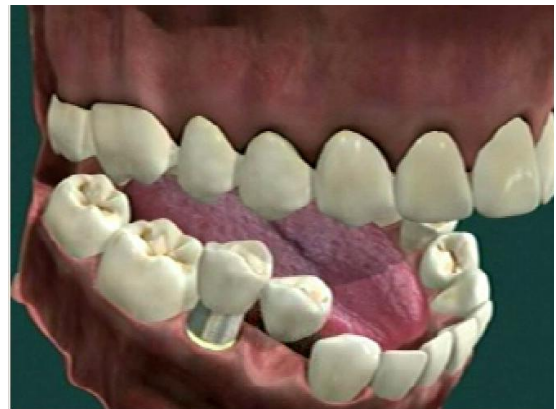
### Advantages

a conventional bridge is cemented in using a different technique. Because the artificial tooth is held in place using a crown it tends to be far more secure and less likely to fall-out. this type of bridge is most appropriate when the neighbouring tooth already has a crown or has a large filling present. Conventional bridges can be used for larger spaces or at the back of the mouth.



### Disadvantages

any tooth which has been prepared for a crown or conventional bridge has the potential to die as result of this. Studies have suggested that between 10 and 15 per cent of all teeth which are prepared for a crown will die. If this happens then a decision needs to be made as to whether you have a root treatment carried out or perhaps even an extraction. Not everyone is suitable for this type of bridge



### Costs

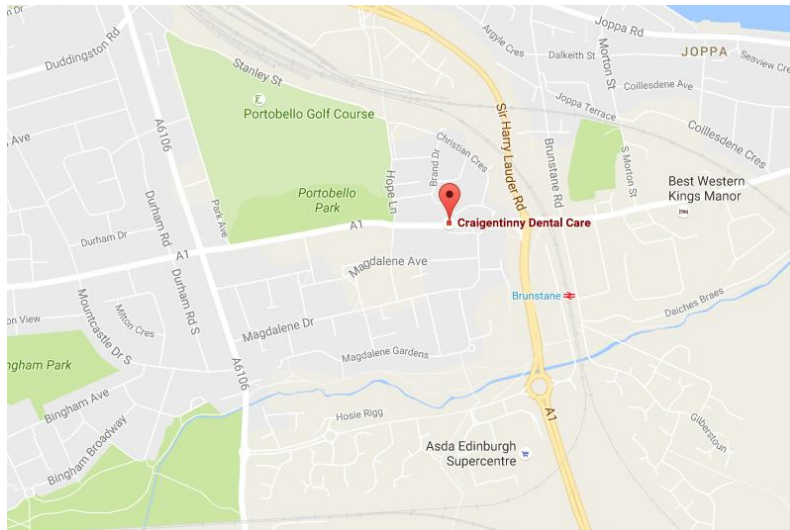
The fees for a conventional bridge depend on the number of teeth involved, and the materials used to manufacture it. Fees for bridges are currently available on our web site.



### Any questions?

Hopefully this guide your questions but better still why not take advantage of the fact that our dentists offer a free consultation and will be happy to answer your specific questions in person.

To book now, just give reception a call on 0131 669 2114 or request an appointment direct on line via our web site at [www.craigentinnycare.co.uk](http://www.craigentinnycare.co.uk)



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