

				
Description	A removable acrylic plate or metal frame holding one or more artificial teeth.	Fixed artificial tooth held in place by metal wings and resin “glue”, thus sometimes called a “sticky bridge”.	Fixed artificial tooth held in place by cutting the adjacent tooth/teeth to allow it to fit in place.	A fixed artificial tooth held in place on a titanium screw placed inside the jaw.
Cost	From £650	From £870	From £2150	From £3500
Duration of treatment	Usually four visits to take impressions, try the denture in and fit the denture. Average 1 month.	Usually two visits to take an impression and to fit the bridge. None, or very little, drilling is involved. Average 2 weeks.	Usually two visits to prepare the adjacent teeth, take an impression and to fit the bridge. Average 2 weeks.	Minimum of four visits including consultation, fitting the screw, impression and fitting tooth. Average 4 months, start to end, for healing.
Durability	40 out of 100 dentures survived after 5 years failed (metal framework). ¹ Upper denture 78% success rate compared to lower denture 70%. ²	88 out of 100 survived at 5 years. ³ 12 out of 100 may fail before 5 years. On average they survive 7 years 10 months. ⁴	94 out of 100 teeth survived at 5 years. ⁵ Almost 3 in 4 bridges survived at 15 years. ⁶ 6 out of 100 may fail before 5 years. Lifespan of 15 to 20 years. ⁷	90 out of 100 survived over 10–15 years. ⁷ 94.6% survival rate. ⁸ (2015) 94% at one year to 88% at 15 years. ⁹ (2009)
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good for replacing several teeth • Can be taken out to clean • Ease of manufacture and repair, including relining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick procedure • No cutting of adjacent teeth – unlikely to harm the nerve⁷ • Fixed option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good longevity • Fixed option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed option • Very long lifespan • No cutting/involvement of adjacent teeth • Can be used to support dentures (if suitable)¹³
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not fixed • May be loose • May take time to get used to • Can fracture/break • Requires diligent regular cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have a bit of metal showing through⁷ • Can de-bond with impact but often can be re-cemented immediately • Will need additional cleaning procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More invasive procedure • Cutting adjacent teeth for a bridge can cause the nerve to die, over time, in 32 out of 100 teeth¹¹ • If the bridge fails, this may compromise the adjacent teeth, which may then lead to their loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly • Needs time for healing • Involves surgical procedures • Good oral hygiene and regular hygienist visits necessary to maintain or it may develop peri-implantitis (infection leading to loss of bone)¹²
Not suitable where...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very poor oral hygiene • Patients with a severe gag reflex may potentially find these difficult to wear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very poor oral hygiene • Replacing large gaps • When tooth being replaced is bigger than adjacent teeth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very poor oral hygiene • When the adjacent teeth have not been filled or have only very small fillings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very poor oral hygiene • Severe bone loss¹⁴ • Diabetics¹⁵ • Smokers¹⁶