

## Different types of bridges



Various materials and techniques are used for dental implant restorations and at first, the choice may seem overwhelming. Your doctor will discuss the options available to you and advise you based on your individual requirements.

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## Temporary bridges

### Acrylic temporary bridge

- This type of bridge is connected to the implants via an interface on the day of implant placement. It is fabricated from a softer material than the other types of bridge available and will therefore appear slightly bulkier than the final restoration in order to maintain strength. Acrylic bridges typically last between 6 months and two years. Gentle chewing and soft foods are recommended during this phase for all patients.



### Fiber reinforced temporary bridge

- An alternative to acrylic restorations, this type of bridge is more natural in appearance and will last for 2-3 years. Fiber reinforced bridges are sometimes also recommended for medium term restorations.



### Final bridges

Metal framework and acrylic resin teeth.



- In terms of cost effectiveness, this is an excellent option. 3D digital imaging is used to design a custom-made titanium framework that is used to

support your new acrylic resin teeth. This type of bridge normally lasts between 5-10 years and when it comes to replacement, a simple and inexpensive resurfacing procedure is often all that is needed, whereby the existing metal framework is re-used, and the new acrylic tooth/ teeth attached.

### Zirconia bridge



- This is a high-end restoration, in terms of cost and appearance. As with the acrylic option, 3D digital imaging is used to design a custom-made titanium framework. This supports a set of bespoke ceramic teeth manufactured from multiple layers of a translucent material to achieve an extremely realistic final appearance. These teeth do not stain and will maintain their luster for the duration of the restoration, which can be 10 -15 years or more.

In full mouth restorations, your doctor may advise you to opt for a combination of bridges. An upper zirconia bridge combined with a lower metal framework and acrylic resin teeth will minimize the 'clicking' sound some patients with both upper and lower zirconia bridges experience.



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