



Dental Procedure Information

Bridge

Introduction

A bridge is a fixed prosthesis that is used to replace one or more missing teeth.



Mechanism: - A bridge is anchored by the teeth on either side of the tooth space; it can also be fixed by a metal wing extending from either side of the bridge.
- A bridge can be used together with crowns.

Materials: Porcelain fused to gold / Full porcelain

Types:

1. Conventional Bridge

Mechanism: The crowns on both ends of the bridge act as anchors and hold the bridge in place.

Properties:

- Suitable for stress bearing area.
- Bridge can be relatively longer.

Disadvantage:

- Need to remove the healthy tooth substance from the adjacent tooth.
- Need special aids to clean the bridge and the adjacent teeth.

2. Cantilever Bridge

Mechanism: The bridge is only supported or fixed on one neighbouring tooth.

Properties:

- Suitable for low stress bearing area.
- Can only replace one missing tooth.

For example, replacement of a lateral incisor by a cantilever bridge anchored by the central incisor.

Disadvantage:

- Since only one tooth bears the loading, which may lead to mobility of the neighbouring tooth due to overloading.

3. Maryland Bridge

Mechanism: The bridge is anchored by metal wings extending from both ends, and composite resin is used to bond the metal wings to the neighbouring teeth.

Properties:

- Only suitable for low stress bearing area.
- The teeth used to support the bridge should have enough enamel structure.
- Remove less tooth substance, more conservative. Thus no temporary crown is needed.

Disadvantage:

- Compare to conventional bridge, higher chance of getting loose.

Outcomes

The purpose of this procedure is to replace missing teeth in order to prevent the drifting of neighbouring teeth into the tooth space, which will result in crooked teeth or abnormal bite. Also, it can restore the functions of teeth, including mastication, speech and aesthetics.

Procedures

1. The neighbouring teeth of the missing tooth is shaped according to the design of the bridge.
2. Impressions of the upper and lower dental arches are taken and the bite registration is recorded. Temporary bridge cemented if necessary.
3. The bridge is fabricated in the dental laboratory.
4. The finished bridge is tried in your mouth and adjustment is made accordingly.
5. The bridge is cemented onto the prepared tooth.

Pre-procedure Preparations

The doctor will explain the reason, the procedure and the possible complications to you.

Points to note after restoring with bridge

1. If the temporary crown or bridge dislodge, please contact the dentist as early as possible for recementation since it may affect the fitting of the permanent bridge.
2. During tooth preparation, pulpal tissue may be irritated or infected, temporary sensitivity may be experienced. If condition persists or get worse, please contact the dentist for further examination.
3. The prefabricated bridge will have different morphology as the original teeth, you will get accustom to it after a period of time.
4. Please keep clean at the bridge area, and have regular check up with the dentist.

Should there be any enquiries or concerns, please consult the dentist.

Under the professional care of the dentist, you will gradually recover. We wish you all the best during your treatment and recovery.

If you have any questions after reading the entire leaflet, please write them down in the spaces provided in order for the dentist to further follow-up.

Compiled by Union Hospital Operating Theatre (OT) Governance Committee

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