

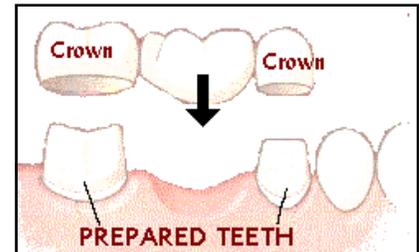
# Dental Bridges

From the Office of Dr. Michael J. Guy 511A Lakeshore Drive, North Bay ON, P1A 2E3

## What is a dental bridge?

A dental bridge is a replacement tooth, known as a pontic, which is fused between two porcelain crowns to fill in the area left by a missing tooth. The two crowns holding it in place are attached onto your teeth on each side of the replacement tooth. This is known as a fixed bridge. This procedure is used to replace one or more missing teeth. Fixed bridges

cannot be taken out of your mouth as you might do with removable partial dentures.

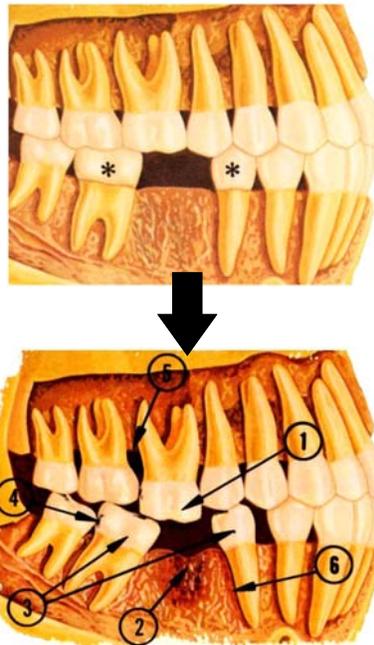


## Why Do I Need A Bridge?

Like the bricks of a roman arch each tooth depends on the next for support. Like a loss of a brick in a roman arch, loss of a tooth will cause great instability. When a tooth is missing there is a chain reaction of problems.

*problems occur gradually over time*

Surrounding teeth may shift, causing stress to your jaw joint (TMJ) when you chew. It's much harder to clean teeth that have shifted, so harmful tartar can build up, which can cause cavities and gum disease



## Potential Problems

1. the opposing molar may super-erupt
2. the unprotected ridge is subject to trauma
3. the neighbouring teeth tilt and proper bite is lost- leading to wear, jaw muscle and joint problems, tooth sensitivity
4. the drifting teeth create food impaction area where decay or gum disease starts.
5. destruction to the bone will result as teeth drift and tip

## Advantages of a dental bridge:

1. Bridges are natural in appearance and restore the smile if missing tooth can be seen
2. In some cases requires only two visits to your dentist.
3. Bridges can reduce your risk of gum disease, help correct some bite issues and even improve your speech.
4. If you maintain good oral hygiene, your fixed bridge should last as many as ten years or more.
5. restores chewing function
6. restores arch stability, preventing further tooth loss
7. not removable and therefore feels like part of your mouth

## Disadvantages of a dental bridge:

1. It is common for your teeth to be mildly sensitive to extreme temperatures for a few weeks after the treatment.
2. The build up of bacteria formed from food acids on your teeth and gums can become infected if proper oral hygiene is not followed.
3. In some cases, perfectly good teeth ( without cavities or fillings) must be prepared,
4. a prepared tooth could require a root canal and in some cases extraction

**Overview of dental bridge procedure**

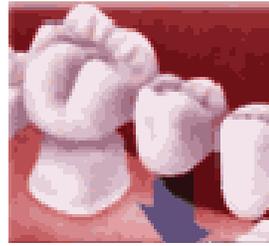
In most cases a bridge requires two appointments of varying length. However in some cases pre-bridge appointments may be necessary to prepare involved teeth for bridge work. These appointments may include:

- 1 crown-lengthening or other perio-related surgeries
- 2 replacing the existing amalgam/composite fillings to ensure the integrity of the core
- 3 placing a post and core

**The actual bridge appointments are as follows:**

**Bridge Preparation Visit- 120 minutes**

At this appointment Dr. Guy will prepare your teeth on either side of the space for the replacement tooth. You will be given a mild anesthetic to numb the area, and he will reduce each abutment (teeth



on either side of the space) to accommodate for the thickness of the crown. When these teeth already have fillings, part of the filling may be left in place to help as a foundation for the crown.

Dr. Guy will then make an impression, which will serve as the model from which the bridge will be made by a dental laboratory. A temporary bridge will be placed for you to wear while your bridge is being made. until This temporary bridge will serve to protect your

teeth and gums.

The impression, bite registration, prescription and study models are sent to laboratory to fabricate the bridge

**Insertion Visit - 30 to 40 minutes, -**

On this second appointment about two weeks later, the temporary bridge will be removed. Your new permanent bridge will be fitted and checked and adjusted for any bite discrepancies. Your new bridge will then be permanently cemented in place.

**How much do dental bridges cost?**

The average cost of a single fixed bridge depends on many factors, the area of the mouth, the type of bridge being placed, and the number of teeth involved. Typically dental bridge cost ranges from \$500-900 per tooth. Dental Benefits and eligibility will vary from one carrier to the next. We will send a pre-determination to your dental benefits company to find this out.

PROCEDURE	CODE	FEE
pontics	62501	\$290
retainer	67211	\$790
retainer	67211	\$790
laboratory fee	99111	\$750-\$900
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2400-2500</b>

**Caring for your bridge**

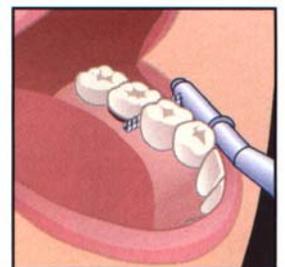
Your bridge depends on the health of nearby teeth and gums for support. Always clean your bridge and the rest of your mouth carefully. Ask our hygienists which special cleaning aids for bridges would help you.

**Brushing**

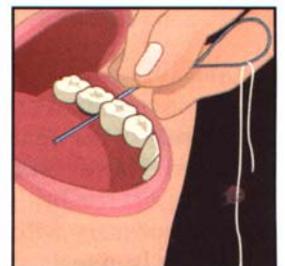
Brush after each meal. Brush the surfaces and sides of your bridge like you do your natural teeth. Use an interdental brush to clean between large spaces.

**Flossing**

Floss at least once a day to clean food and bacteria from between teeth and at the gum line. Special thick floss can help keep your bridge clean. And floss threaders help you floss under a fixed bridge



**Interdental brushes** clean between teeth.



**Floss threaders** help you floss under your bridge.

**Possible Options**

- No replacement
- Partial Denture
- Implants



◀ Partial Denture

Single Tooth Implant ▶

