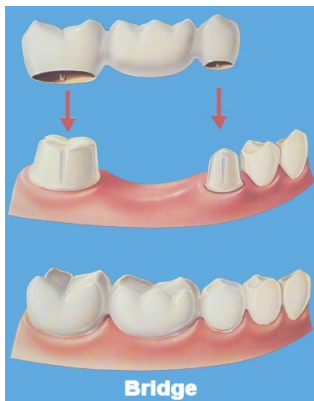
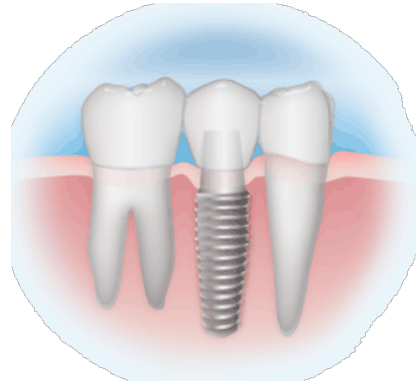


# I need to have a tooth extracted. What are my options for tooth replacement?

*When a tooth has been extracted, the three main options for tooth replacement are implants, bridges, and partials.*

An implant is made from either **titanium** or **porcelain**, and is surgically placed into the bone. After a few months of healing time, a permanent crown is placed on top of the implant. Sometimes bone grafting is necessary if there isn't adequate bone to support the implant. The surgery is done at another clinic, and the patient then returns to our office for the permanent crown.



A bridge is a useful option if there are teeth on either side of the extracted tooth. The adjacent teeth are prepared for crowns, and the bridge is cemented in permanently, with the replacement tooth connected to the crowns on either side. The replacement tooth (or pontic) rests gently on the gums. The bridge can be made entirely of **porcelain**, and looks very esthetically pleasing, without the time and expense of a surgery.

A partial is a removable appliance that relies on the existing teeth for retention. It is the least invasive and least expensive option, but it is removable and thus must be removed and cleaned everyday during brushing and flossing. The partial framework traditionally was made out of **metal**, but now they are completely **acrylic**. They hook onto the remaining teeth in the arch. There is an adjustment period with this option, and sometimes denture adhesive is needed in order to chew certain foods. A partial does allow us to replace several teeth in the same arch using just one appliance.

