

Here are comparisons between implant dentistry with traditional forms of dentistry.

Comparison for One Missing Tooth

When a person is missing one tooth there are two options for replacement, a single dental implant or a bridge.

| | <u>Implant</u> | <u>Bridge</u> |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
| How much? | Same | Same |
| How long? | 1 day to 9 months | 2-5 weeks |
| Destroys Healthy Tooth | No | Yes |
| Lifetime | Up to 30+ years | 5-15 years |
| Effect on Other Teeth | Strengthens | Weakens |
| Risk of decay, root canals and More tooth loss | None | High |

Several Missing Teeth

Partial dentures (RPD) have been used to replace missing teeth for over a hundred years. Just by looking at that one phrase, you can immediately understand why it is an outdated treatment option because it must be ‘removed’ by the patient several times per day to clean, ‘partial’ because it is a scaled down version of a denture that replaces fewer teeth, and dental-medical technology has progressed substantially from where it started a hundred years ago. If it is used long enough, many patients wearing a “partial” denture can look forward to graduating from their “partial” to a “complete” denture due to the disastrous side effects of the partial on the remaining natural teeth.

Comparison for Several missing teeth

| | <u>Implant bridge</u> | <u>Partial Denture</u> |
|--|---|--|
| Cost | More than a partial in the short term but less over the long term | Less than implants in the short term but more over the longer term |
| Treatment time | 1 hour to 9 months | 4-12 weeks |
| Destroy healthy tooth structure | No | Yes |
| Lifetime | Up to 30+ years | 5-15 years |
| Effects on whole mouth | Strengthens | Greatly Weakens |
| Risks for future decay | None | Very high |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Risk for future tooth loss | Very low | Very likely |
| Ease of cleaning | Like natural teeth, minimal food trapping | Simple (outside mouth), always traps food |
| Comfort | Like natural teeth | Poor |
| Speech change | None | Initially poor but can improve with time |
| Effects taste and sensation of food due to covering the palate | No | Yes |
| Harms bone | No | Yes, Greatly |