

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 Just by looking at that one phrase, you can immediately understand why it is an outdated treatment option because it must be ‘removed’ by the patient several times per day to clean, ‘partial’ because it is a scaled down version of a denture that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