

BRIDGES vs. DENTAL IMPLANTS

Advantages of Dental Implants

Dental implant treatment is the only solution that preserves bone. Superior long-term esthetics by preventing a visible defect in the bone as a result of tooth loss. No compromise to the health of adjacent teeth. Dental implant restorations have a much better long-term prognosis. The American Dental Association quotes a 10 year life span for bridges. Documented clinical studies indicate success rates for implants of 95-98% for 25-50 years.

Disadvantages of Dental Implants

More planning and treatment time required. Treatment requires surgical procedure.

Advantages of Bridges

Less planning and treatment time involved. No surgical procedure is required.

Disadvantages of Bridges

Long-term health of adjacent teeth is compromised by removing the enamel and placing additional forces on these teeth. Difficult to clean and the teeth are susceptible to decay, root canals and gum problems. Bridges typically need to be replaced every ten years (average). Each time the bridge is replaced more tooth structure is removed. When bridges fail, additional teeth are often affected and more extensive treatment is usually necessary.