

MISSING NO MORE

DR JEAN PAUL DEMAJO DISCUSSES FIXED-MOVABLE SOLUTIONS FOR MISSING TEETH

When replacing missing teeth, it is important to know the options available. These options may be broken down into two main categories: fixed and removable. The fixed options are either dental bridges or implant supported bridges, while removable options are dentures. However there is one other option, which incorporates both a fixed and a removable prosthesis.

INDICATIONS FOR A FIXED-MOVABLE PROSTHESIS

- Remaining teeth are already crowned or require crowning
- Implants are not an option
- Current dentures are bulky and unstable

CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR A FIXED-MOVABLE PROSTHESIS

- Patient doesn't wish to remove the prosthesis to clean it on a daily basis
- Psychological acceptance of having a removable prosthesis

ADVANTAGES OF A FIXED MOVABLE PROSTHESIS

1. Aesthetics: Crowning of existing teeth improves on the aesthetics
2. Retention and stability: Removable prosthesis is very stable thanks to incorporated custom-made cast attachments on the fixed bridge.
3. Reduced size: The removable prosthesis is much smaller than

a conventional denture. This is because a conventional denture needs to be fully extended over the hard and soft oral tissues to achieve stability and retention. With a fixed-movable prosthesis the retention is almost entirely obtained from the cast special attachments on the bridge. This also provides stability resulting in a smaller size requirement of the removable component.

4. The design may be used to replace multiple missing teeth.
5. Non-surgical procedure: this allows medically compromised patients to make use of this custom-made prosthesis without having to undergo surgery and the risks associated with it.
6. Timeframe: Unlike implant treatment the treatment time for this prosthesis is short, usually one to two weeks.

DISADVANTAGES OF A FIXED MOVABLE PROSTHESIS

1. Partially Removable: The removable component must be removed on a daily basis for maintenance.
2. A highly skilled dental team including a skilled technician is required to design and construct this prosthesis.
3. The lifetime of this prosthesis is dependent on the existing remaining teeth supporting the fixed bridge.
4. Framework of removable prosthesis must incorporate a metal component



A CASE STUDY

A middle-aged man presents himself with:

- Multiple missing teeth
- Remaining teeth require crowning
- Remaining teeth are severely worn down
- A medical history not permitting implant treatment

TREATMENT PLAN

1. Crowning of remaining upper and lower teeth
2. Elimination of teeth with poor prognosis
3. Construction of removable upper and lower prostheses.

When deciding to correct your failing dentition it is very important to weigh up all your options. Find out what your options are, how long will it take to complete the job, the pros and cons and what the cost will be. The best dentist is not the one who provides you with the nicest looking teeth but the one who proposes and executes the best treatment plan around you. Ask your dentist 

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