

COLUMN

Is it too late for me to replace my lost teeth?



Dentally
Speaking

by Jeffrey S.
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Ideally, if you lose a tooth you try to replace it right away. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. Sometimes, your budget or your life just doesn't have room in it for replacing your teeth. The problem is that when it is a more favorable financial situation, it may in some ways be too late for a simple dental implant to be placed. This can be due to teeth crowding into the space left by the missing tooth, making it too tight for the dental implant, or the deterioration of the jawbone in this area because of no tooth being present. Does this mean that you are no longer a candidate to have your tooth or teeth replaced? Thankfully, this is not the case and we still have options for you.

When replacing lost teeth, you typically have 3 options:

- A dental implant –this is a free-standing artificial tooth
- A fixed dental bridge- capping teeth on both sides of the open space with a false tooth in between
- A removable partial or full denture

For purposes of this discussion, we will discuss the first two options.



Dental Implants

Thankfully, as a result of 3D Cone Beam X-rays, we can view your entire upper and lower jaws in all three dimensions. We are then able to determine exactly how much bone is present and if the actual quality of the bone will support a dental implant. We can now virtually place an implant on the computer prior to the patient even being in the chair. We can then make a computerized surgical guide that allows us to place the dental implant precisely in the virtually planned position without the worries of past “exploratory” surgeries. It has made implant dentistry faster, more predictable, and less invasive for all our patients. More importantly, we can provide tooth replacements for patients that were previously told that they were not able to have this procedure.

Advantages of Dental Implants

- Esthetic, functional, predictable, reliable
- Does not affect adjacent teeth
- Does not decay
- More economical long term
- Average lifespan 25 years

Disadvantages of Dental Implants

- More expensive upfront cost
- Requires minor surgery
- More planning time
- Requires healing time before permanent tooth replacement.

Unfortunately, some people still are just not favorable candidates for dental implants, and a dental bridge is a more ideal solution to their problem.

Dental Bridges

A fixed bridge is permanently cemented into place and can only be removed by your dentist. It consists of one or more false teeth called “pontics” (one for each missing tooth) in the middle and one or more anchoring crowns called “abutment” teeth on either side (see diagram). The pontics fill in the gap while the abutment crowns are secured to the natural teeth adjacent to the gap, holding the bridge in place.

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Motor Bella: Detroit's 'new' Auto Show

By Dr. Richard Hainer
*Special to
Community Lifestyles*

Detroit's last traditional auto show, the North American International Auto Show was held in 2019. Despite the typically frigid January temperatures and invariable snowstorm, the Detroit Auto Show was a predictable event kicked off by the iconic black-tie children's charity event followed by nearly 750,000 local consumers welcoming

the chance to tire kick nearly 1000 vehicles and concept cars. But the Detroit Auto Dealer's Association recognized that changes were afoot. The Consumer Electronic Show usually hosted the week prior to the Detroit Show became a significant competitor. Additionally, auto manufacturers were tending to shy away from large shows focusing on more consumer driven events. As a consequence, a decision was made to move the Detroit Auto Show to June to try and

take advantage of the warmer summer temperatures as well as phase into the ever popular Woodward Dream Cruise. And hence was born the concept of Motor Bella. Initially conceptualized as an adjunct event to the traditional auto show, Motor Bella evolved as a response to COVID. Both the June 2020 and 2021 NAIAS shows were canceled. Orga-



~ Photo Courtesy of Michael Nutt

nizers needed to regroup and come up with an acceptable alternative,

Touted as an auto mobility event by organizer's, Motor Bella was a re-imagine experiential auto show focused on vehicles and mobility. Held in Pontiac at the M1 Concourse, an 87 acre private automotive facility featuring 200 private garages and a 1.5 mile test track with a newly constructed indoor facility, Motor Bella was to be the new age auto show. "The not your father's auto show" Gone were the elaborate displays, the pomp and circumstance, the gorgeous models, and the vast expanse of carpeted floor space filled with polished cars. This was to be a more interactive show. And in that respect, it

delivered. Weather unfortunately was still an issue. The second day was completely rained out due to a torrential storm that left the grounds flooded and mud soaked. Leave it to Michigan weather even in the summer. Lost also was the international allure. No longer were there thousands of automotive journalists milling about on Press Preview Day. This year it was more about the experience than the extravagance.. My suspicion is that for the traditionalist, someone looking to tire kick and fiddle with buttons and knobs, Motor Bella was disappointing. But from a purely visceral perspective, Motor Bella did not disappoint. Getting a hot lap in an 807hp Dodge Charger Hellcat or a Mustang Mach-E was something the traditional Detroit Auto Show could not provide.

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Dr. Haddad *continued from page 17*

The natural teeth must be relatively healthy (structurally sound and free from decay) for this to work. The biggest downside to this process is that it is irreversible. Once the natural teeth are shaved/ filed down, they cannot be used as regular teeth ever again.

Advantages of Bridges

- Esthetic, functional, predictable, reliable
- Less costly upfront
- Requires less time for final result

Disadvantages of Bridges

- Requires enamel removal of adjacent teeth
- If adjacent teeth have crowns, they must be redone
- Tooth decay is potential problem
- Root canal treatment may be required if nerves are affected
- Average lifespan 11 years

Many patients have given

up hope on replacing lost teeth because they are unaware of the changes in dental technology that allow better solutions. Even if you have been told that you were not a candidate for a dental implant or bridge, you should consider revisiting this idea with a dentist that focuses on this type of dentistry. Giving people back their proper function, aesthetics, and quality of life is one of the most fulfilling things a dentist can do for their patients.

Jeffrey S. Haddad, DDS of Doolin & Haddad Advanced Dentistry, completed his dental education at the University of Michigan in 2001. Dr. Haddad is a fellow of the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies. He lectures nationally on cosmetic dentistry, TMJ and sleep disorders and dental implants. For more information, visit www.rochesteradvanceddentistry.com.