

Tooth Talk

“Hey Doc, I like to replace my missing teeth. What are my options? (Part 1- Introduction)”

When teeth are missing, a whole array of consequences may follow. The remaining teeth may drift or tilt into the spaces. The opposing teeth may come down or up into the spaces. One’s bite may be altered and become less effective with chewing and speech.

Food can be trapped in the spaces, causing tooth decay or gum disease on the remaining teeth. The jaw bone of the empty spaces may shrink away due to the lack of stimulation, causing gum and bone recession on the adjacent teeth. The esthetics of one’s smile will be compromised if the missing teeth are at the front of the mouth.

The facial muscles may become saggy due to the lack of teeth/bone support, thereby making one look older in appearance. The digestive system and the overall health may be affected due to the inability to chew food properly.

There are 2 main treatment options for replacing missing teeth: removable or fixed.

Which option one chooses depends on:

- the number of teeth missing
- the location of the teeth missing
- the condition of the teeth remaining
- the amount of jaw bone remaining after the teeth are gone
- the length of time the teeth have been missing
- how soon one wants the missing teeth replaced
- one’s level of tolerance
- one’s esthetic expectation
- one’s budget
- etc.

In the next 3 articles, I will discuss both the removable and fixed options for replacing missing teeth and their advantages and disadvantages.



ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



4 Russell St. E., Lindsay
www.drVictorsun.com
705 324-0050