



# Tooth Talk

**“Hey Doc, just take out my back tooth.  
Nobody is going to see it anyway!”**

Since missing front teeth are considered aesthetically and socially unacceptable, most people will try to repair them when damaged or replace them when lost. However, from a dental point of view, preserving or replacing the back teeth is just as important. Just because you can't see your back teeth does not mean that you won't face problems down the road. Besides the obvious role in chewing, back teeth affect and support the overall bite and help ease some of the excessive pressure on the front teeth created by chewing. Dentists generally agree that the loss of back teeth can lead to a wide array of consequences such as:

- decrease in chewing efficiency
- tipping, migration, and rotation of remaining adjacent teeth
- extrusion of unopposed teeth
- excessive wear or erosion of remaining teeth
- loss of alveolar jaw bone
- painful dysfunction of the jaw joints that unite the lower jaw to the skull. etc.

Just because the site of the missing back teeth is out of view doesn't mean that there won't be changes to your appearance. The loss of back teeth can lead to a decrease in facial height which can become increasingly noticeable over time. Also, if the shifting of the adjacent teeth or the over-eruption of the opposing teeth into the space becomes excessive, those teeth can become functionless and they will be more prone to gum disease and decay. In conclusion, preserving or replacing your back teeth is very important to the overall oral and general health. Most importantly, you need them to enjoy your meal at your favourite restaurant!!



**4 Russell St. E., Lindsay**

**[www.drVictorsun.com](http://www.drVictorsun.com)**

**705 324-0050**

