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Comprehensive Family Dentistry

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TOOTH REPLACEMENT

Replacement of natural teeth is an important aspect of modern dentistry and falls into 4 broad categories. Multiple variations exist for each. Below is a very brief outline. Additional aspects must be discussed with Dr. Evans.

BRIDGES: A bridge is still our most common method for replacing a single tooth or teeth. Crowns are placed on the teeth on both sides of the space and a replacement tooth is suspended between these crown anchors. Porcelain fused to gold alloy is the most common material used although some may be constructed with porcelain only. The bridge is cemented or bonded and does not come out.

IMPLANTS: Implants are a viable way to replace one tooth or an entire edentulous arch. A surgical phase with a dental surgeon and a prosthetic phase at our office is the usual approach taken. Implant prosthesis can be either fixed (cannot be removed) or removable.

PARTIAL DENTURES: "Partials" are fabricated in the partially edentulous arch. These are removable by the patient and have connecting bars and clasps around teeth for retention. Variations exist to make "partials" more esthetic. While not most patients' first choice, a partial may be necessary if too many teeth are missing in an arch.

FULL DENTURES: The last prosthesis for those patients with no teeth remaining in an arch. Sometimes a few natural tooth roots may be retained for retention of an overlay denture. The replacement of teeth, bone, and gum tissue by resins and composites is one of our most demanding tasks. For those patients who require a full denture, our attention to subtle detail can provide a comfortable and physiologically harmonious prosthesis.