



This patient information sheet answers frequently asked questions about fixed prosthodontics (crown and bridge). It has been developed for use in discussion with your dental practitioner.

## 1. What are fixed prosthodontics and how will they help me?

Fixed prosthodontics are prosthetic or artificial devices, such as dental crowns, bridgework, and dental implants that replace missing teeth in your mouth. Fixed prosthodontics are not regularly removed and are used instead of removable dental devices, such as dentures. Replacing lost, damaged or severely decayed teeth may help restore your ability to eat and speak, improve your appearance, and benefit your general health and wellbeing.

## 2. My anaesthetic

This treatment will require a local anaesthetic. For more information about the anaesthetic and the risks involved please refer to the anaesthetic information sheet that has been provided to you. Discuss any concerns with your dental practitioner. If you have not been given an anaesthetic sheet, please ask for one.

## 3. What are the specific risks of this treatment?

In most cases, fixed prosthodontic treatments are successful however, there is always some risk depending on the condition of the tooth, how well you care for your teeth and the surrounding gums, and the biting forces on the tooth.

### Common risks and complications include:

- reduction of tooth structure: this may be necessary during the preparation of decayed or damaged teeth so crowns and/or bridges can be placed on the tooth/teeth
- speech: your speech may be altered temporarily until your tongue and lips adjust to the new fixed prosthodontic
- sensitivity: this may occur after the preparation of the tooth surface for a crown or bridge
- uncomfortable: fixed prosthodontics are artificial and therefore can feel uncomfortable or different from your natural teeth. This feeling should only be temporary
- breakage and/or chipping: porcelain, acrylic and metal components of the fixed prosthodontic can chip and even break. Biting hard materials, change in biting forces, traumatic blows to the mouth are possible causes of a break or chip
- teeth involved in the placement of a crown or bridge may require root canal treatment due to the nerve tissue becoming infected or inflamed
- dental decay and/or gum disease: it is important to maintain good oral hygiene (i.e. brushing and flossing) to include the fixed prosthodontics and surrounding teeth and gums to avoid decay and gum disease
- bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs or some complementary/alternative medicines, such as fish oil and turmeric. Please discuss any medications you are currently taking with your dental practitioner at your initial appointment.

### Uncommon risks and complications include:

- failure of the fixed prosthodontic: this can occur due to poor oral hygiene, poor diet and failure to attend dental appointments
- loss of temporary restoration during fixed prosthodontic treatment: return to your treating dental practitioner
- severe or persistent pain: return to your treating dental practitioner
- infection requiring antibiotics and further treatment: return to your treating dental practitioner.

### Rare risks and complications include:

- death as a result of this treatment is extremely rare.



## 5. What are the risks of not having this treatment?

There may be consequences if you choose not to have the proposed treatment. Please discuss these with your dental practitioner. If you choose not to have the treatment you will not be required to sign the treatment plan.

## 6. Who will be performing the treatment?

Your dental practitioner (dentist or dental specialist) will provide the treatment. However, a student undergoing training or a dental practitioner undergoing further training, under the supervision of a registered dental practitioner may also provide the treatment.

If you have any concerns about which dental practitioner or student will be performing your treatment please discuss the concerns with your dental practitioner or the supervisor.

## 7. Useful sources of information

Read about mouth care for yourself, babies, infants and children, and teenagers, emergencies and accidents, mouthguards, water fluoridation, and available dental services on the Queensland Health Oral Health website: [www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth)

The Queensland Health Informed Consent website has information on various dental procedures: [www.health.qld.gov.au/consent](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/consent)

List of blood thinning medications available at: [www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/bloodthinner](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/bloodthinner)



Image 1: Website address symbol



Image 2: No smoking symbol

To quit smoking:

- talk to your dental practitioner, GP, pharmacist, or community health worker
- call Quitline: 13 QUIT (13 78 48)
- refer to the Queensland Government website:

[www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/atods/smoking/index.html](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/atods/smoking/index.html)

## 8. Questions to ask your dental practitioner

Please ask your dental practitioner if you do not understand any aspect of the information in this patient information sheet or any other information you have been given about your condition, treatment options and proposed treatment.

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## 9. Contacts

To find a public local dental clinic, search the Queensland Health Oral Health website “Contact Us” section for a dental service list. The website is:

[www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/contact\\_us.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/contact_us.asp)

You may choose to attend a private dental practitioner (who you may need to pay).

Dental practitioners who are members of the Australian Dental Association may be found on their website using the “Find a Dentist” tool. The website is: [www.ada.org.au/Find-a-Dentist](http://www.ada.org.au/Find-a-Dentist).

However, not all private dentists are listed on this website, and you may choose to look for a private dentist in, for example, the telephone directory or another internet site.

Outside of dental clinic/service hours:

- if advice is required, call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84). 13HEALTH provides confidential health advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- if an emergency, call 000.

Your local dental clinic contact details are:

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Image 3: Ringing phone symbol