



Prosthodontics FAQs

1. What is prosthodontics?

Prosthodontics is a field of dentistry that deals with rebuilding natural teeth and restoring missing teeth with prosthetic replacements. This may involve a routine procedure such as making a crown for a damaged tooth or could involve more complex procedures, such as full mouth reconstruction of damaged or mutilated dentitions. In the majority of cases, the job of the prosthodontist lies somewhere between these two clinical situations. (**Prostho** - relating to prosthetic devices to replace or repair teeth and/or oral tissues **dentist** - dentist).

2. Why is it necessary to see a prosthodontist?

A prosthodontist has undergone several years of clinical and academic training and examinations in order to specialise in this field. He or she has more training in various fields of dentistry including implants, crowns, bridges, dentures, veneers and composite restorations.

3. What about cosmetic dentistry?

Since people are living longer and retaining more of their natural teeth, prosthodontists are playing a key role in helping patients maintain a healthy, attractive appearance. Prosthodontists are experts in whitening and bonding techniques, colour matching, use of veneers to reshape teeth and enhance their appearance, and the precise fabrication and placement of fixed prostheses such as crowns and bridges. Prosthodontists combine the hands of a dentist with the eyes of an artist to create natural-looking restorations that greatly benefit their patients.

4. What are implants and can I have them?

Today, dental implants are virtually indistinguishable from natural teeth. This appearance is aided in part by structural and functional connection between the dental implant and the living bone. Implants are typically placed in a single sitting but require a period of osseointegration. They are usually made of titanium. Osseointegration is the process by which direct anchorage of a dental implant and the bone of the jaw occurs. If osseointegration does not occur, the implant will fail. You will need a full assessment to see if you can have implants and you may require further investigation using radiographs or CT scans.



5. Can anything be done to help my loose complete denture?

There are various ways to achieve well-fitting dentures. One way is to make new conventional dentures and sometimes it is best to have an implant retained overdenture (a denture that is supported and held in place by 2 or more implants).

6. What is TMD (Temporomandibular dysfunction)?

Prosthodontists have in-depth knowledge and extensive training and experience in understanding the relationship of teeth and jaws necessary for a proper bite. Therefore, they are experts in treating patients with problems with their bite and the function of their jaw joints.

Working with other doctors, prosthodontists provide treatment for patients with birth defects such as cleft palate; conditions such as temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMD); traumatic injuries; and complex restorations for patients who have undergone surgical or radiation treatment for cancer.