# FAQ's About Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments

**What is an Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments?**

- *It is a dental restoration that replaces missing teeth by inserting two or more artificial titanium roots into the jawbone and attaching artificial teeth to them.*
- *It has custom shaped parts which attach to the implants and support the bridge which is cemented or screwed on top of them.*

**What material is in an Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments?**

*Bridges are usually made of four types of materials:*

1. *Porcelain*
2. *Gold Alloy (commonly gold, platinum, palladium)*
3. *Porcelain fused to an inner core of gold alloy*
4. *Zirconia metal oxide*

*Implants are made of titanium.*

*Custom abutments are made of titanium or zirconia metal oxide.*

**What are the benefits of an Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments?**

- *Bridges build back your smile and help you to speak and chew properly by restoring the natural size, shape and color of your teeth. They help maintain tooth, bite and jaw alignment by preventing remaining teeth from shifting out of position.*
- *There is no need to drill down existing teeth in order to replace the missing teeth as occurs with conventional tooth supported bridges.*
- *Long gaps where multiple teeth are missing can be treated effectively with implant supported bridges whereas long span natural tooth supported bridges have many negative consequences.*
- *Custom abutments allow for the placement of screw access holes in areas which do not compromise aesthetics. They also allow for the design of cement retained restorations which can more readily be placed without excess cement removal challenges and allow for more realistic and predictable aesthetics at the gumline.*

**What are the risks of an Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments?**

- *Due to the complexity of the restoration, treatment cost is relatively expensive compared to many other options.*
- *Possible complications may be such things as food entrapment and challenges in matching adjacent tooth aesthetics.*
- *There is a minimal risk of an implant not adhering to the jawbone and thus requiring removal and replacement.*
- *Chipped porcelain, worn metal, fractured custom abutments or loose implant screws may require maintenance procedures, repair or replacement.*

**What are the alternatives to an Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments?**

1. *Replace the missing teeth with another type of implant supported restoration*
2. *Replace the missing teeth with an conventional tooth supported bridge*
3. *Replace the missing teeth with a removable partial denture*
4. *Leave the space as is*

**How can an existing bite affect an Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments?**

- *Excessive or uneven bite forces may cause porcelain chipping, metal wear, implant screw loosening, or even gum and bone loss around the implant.*
- *Severe bite issues such as habitual tooth grinding may cause premature failure of the dental prosthesis.*

**Are there any post treatment limitations once I have an Implant Supported Bridge Cemented to Custom Abutments?**

- *Porcelain on the bridge may have a good color match with adjacent natural teeth when the bridge is placed but less of a match as your natural teeth age.*
- *Food may become lodged around the implant supported bridge; gum recession or minor bone loss around the top of the implant over time may make food impaction unavoidable, even with ideal bridge contour.*
- *Gum recession may also lead to unsightly metallic implant margins becoming visible.*
- *A bridge may chip or break if used for abnormal activities (e.g. biting fishing line, sewing thread or finger nails, opening bottles).*