DO NOTHING

You don't HAVE to replace your missing tooth. If you choose not to replace your missing teeth, the bone will continue to shrink away and the neighboring teeth may shift or tip. That means that additional bone grafting or braces may be required later if you change your mind and want your tooth replaced, which of course means the cost, time, and complexity goes way up.


Implant
Abutment
Crown
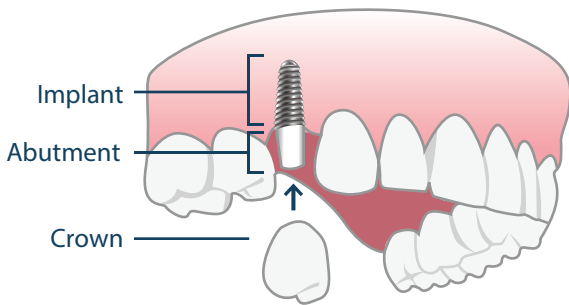
OPTION 1: DENTAL IMPLANT

Dental implants are the best available treatment to replace a missing tooth. Average costs range from $3,000 to $5,000 depending on complexity. Dental implants are the nicest looking, longest lasting, strongest, and safest option. You can smile, eat, and chew just like with a natural tooth. In fact, having an implant is the next best thing to re-growing your own tooth.

OPTION 2: BRIDGE

A bridge is a little less expensive than an implant ($3,000 - $4,500), and it can be done relatively quickly (2-3 weeks). The downside though is that your bone continues to deteriorate underneath the bridge. You might get increased cold sensitivity in your teeth, or even root canal problems in some situations. The biggest problem is that food, bacteria, and toxins get stuck underneath the bridge because they are very difficult to clean. This can cause cavities and failure, which means taking the bridge off and starting from scratch. Current literature shows the average bridge lasts from 7-12 years.
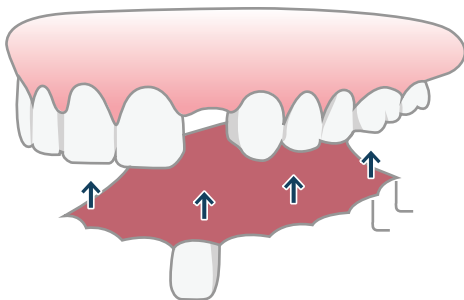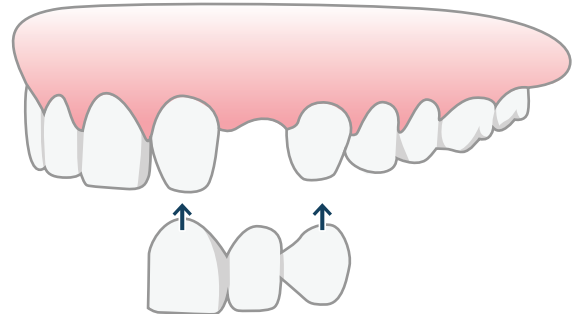
OPTION 3: REMOVABLE PARTIAL DENTURE

This is the cheapest and fastest option, typically costing $500-$2000 and can take a couple of weeks. The problem is that they are removable, which means that they are not nearly as stable as the options above. You can't expect to eat or chew or grind your food very well, and you CAN expect to get food stuck around them, and to have metal hooks that might show in your smile. Removable partial dentures are the cheapest, but this is definitely the least comfortable, functional, and desirable option.