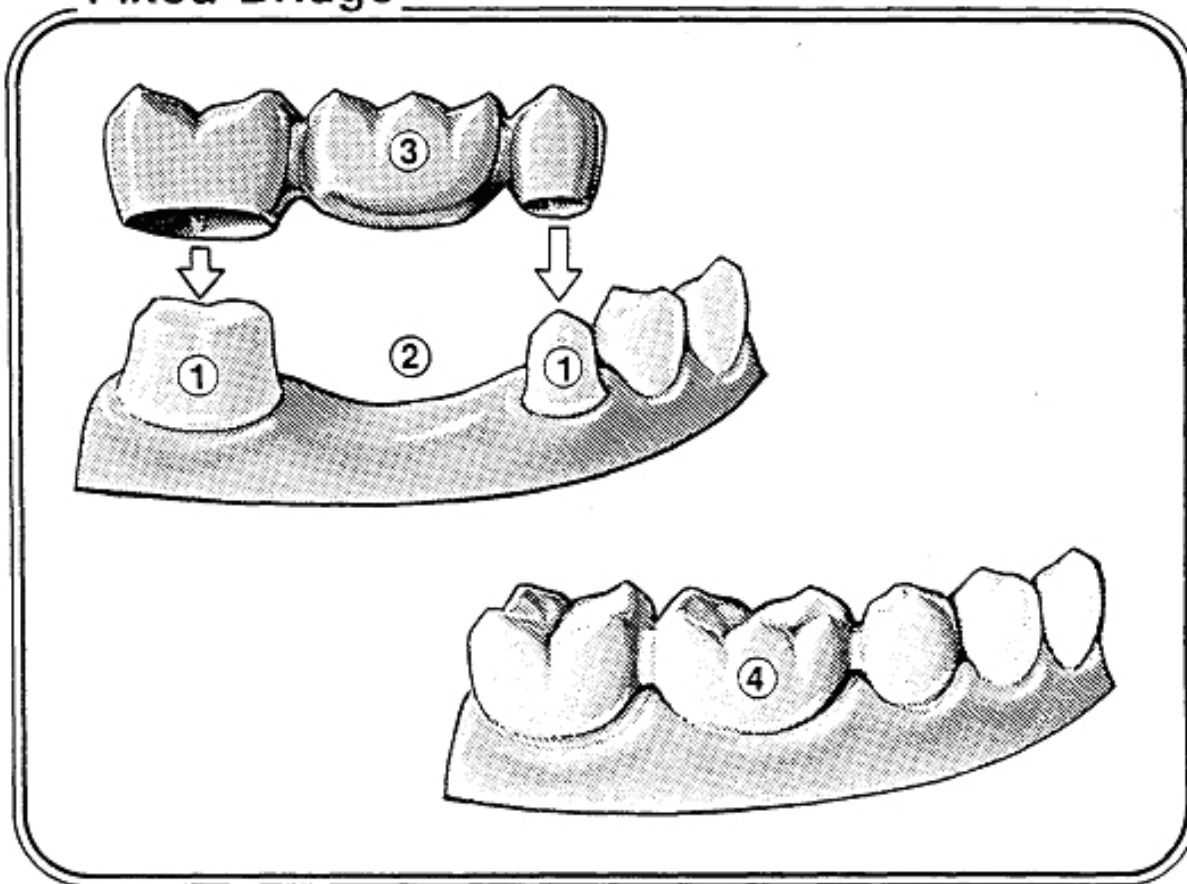


FIXED BRIDGE

TO YOUR HEALTH - PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUT

D6

Fixed Bridge



When the tooth or teeth are lost and not replaced, your teeth can drift from their proper position. This drifting can cause many undesirable consequences such as jaw pain and headaches from malocclusion (a bad bite alignment). Drifting of teeth can make certain areas more susceptible to decay. Problems with the supporting structures of your teeth (gum and bone) can arise from the shifting of teeth as they try to fill a vacant area. In order to prevent the drifting of teeth, a fixed bridge may be recommended. This will return your masticatory (chewing) system to a full complement of teeth. The teeth can then support each other and function beautifully together.

The teeth (1) on either side of the space (2) are prepared, as shown, to accept the bridge. A laboratory then fabricates the bridge (3) very precisely. At a subsequent visit, the bridge is cemented into place over the prepared teeth (4). Bridges can be fabricated from a variety of materials including gold, other metals and porcelain.

Student Health Center



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