

WHY A PROTHODONTIST?

Prosthodontists are dental specialists with additional training after dental school in the prevention and treatment of tooth loss. Prosthodontists have a highly skilled understanding of the dynamics of a smile, the preservation of a healthy mouth and the creation of tooth replacements. Prosthodontists are trained to recognize the changes caused by tooth loss and the landmarks utilized to determine natural tooth position, color and form.

FIND A PROTHODONTIST TODAY



The American College of Prosthodontists offers the No. 1 referral directory for locating a prosthodontist in your area. Search by your ZIP code or a specific procedure to find your specialist today at www.gotoapro.org.

The ACP's mission is to provide the highest quality of patient care, work closely with other dental professionals to provide the most comprehensive and effective treatments, and improve the quality of patients' lives through the advancement of prosthodontics.

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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PROTHODONTISTS®

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PROTHODONTISTS BRIDGE THE GAPS

If you are missing teeth or if your dentures are old, worn or uncomfortable, then seek the expertise of a prosthodontist today to help you smile again.

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FACING THE FUTURE

More than 35 million Americans do not have any teeth, and 178 million people in the U.S. are missing at least one tooth—and those numbers are expected to grow the next two decades. While that picture isn't pretty, the good news is that techniques have improved dramatically, and replacement of missing teeth is particularly successful when performed by trained specialists.

Tooth Loss Problem

Tooth loss happens from decay and gum disease, and as a result of injury, cancer or simply wear. Losing teeth places unnatural stress on the mouth's structures and shape—shrinking the bone and possibly changing your facial appearance.

Denture Solution

Dentures are removable replacements for missing teeth. Complete dentures replace all teeth and removable partial dentures replace some teeth. By matching each individual's unique smile and bite, dentures can improve facial appearance and self-confidence. They can also solve pronunciation problems caused by missing teeth and aid with chewing.



BEFORE

AFTER

CREATE A NEW SMILE

Removable Partial Dentures

For patients missing some, but not all of their teeth, a removable partial denture may be recommended. This type of denture uses the remaining teeth to hold the removable prosthesis in place. It is typically made of a metal framework with pink plastic to replace the gum tissue and plastic or resin denture teeth. With the advanced training of a prosthodontist, removable partial dentures designs are frequently offered.

Complete Dentures

For individuals missing all of their teeth, complete dentures provide a means of replacing both the missing teeth and supporting gums. Because the mouth changes dramatically in time after tooth loss, complete dentures should be evaluated or modified annually, and remade periodically, typically within five years. The individual nature of each mouth requires a very specific and customized solution. A successful denture should:

- effectively replace missing teeth and gums,
- help you chew most foods adequately,
- be relatively comfortable with minimal sore spots,
- maintain the health of the gums and roof of the mouth,
- look natural and make you feel good about yourself.

Prosthodontists use a patient-centered, step-by-step approach and special techniques to fabricate both complete dentures and removable partial dentures. This personalized approach requires several appointments and careful follow-up adjustments to ensure optimal comfort and appearance.

NOT THE RIGHT FIT?

Denture Alternatives

Scientific research shows that some individuals do not adapt well to removable dentures. They may experience movement of the dentures, looseness, limited chewing, impaired speaking or changes in self-confidence. Sometimes improved removable and complete dentures provided by a prosthodontist can help in overcoming these problems. In more difficult cases, your prosthodontist may recommend the use of dental implants to stabilize the denture. An implant-retained denture will have much less movement, result in fewer sore spots, improve chewing and enhance self-image and self-confidence. Prosthodontists have been the leading force in the 30-year development of successful dental implant treatment.

To learn more about complete dentures, removable partial dentures or dental implants, ask your prosthodontist or visit www.prosthodontics.org.

