**Infected Tooth Treatment Options**

No Treatment

* A tooth abscess won't go away without treatment. If the abscess ruptures, the pain may decrease significantly — but you still need dental treatment.
* If the abscess doesn't drain, the infection may spread to your jaw and to other areas of your head and neck.
* If you have a weakened immune system and you leave a tooth abscess untreated, your risk of spreading infection increases even more.
* You might even develop sepsis — a life-threatening infection that spreads throughout your body.

Extraction

Benefits:

* Removes the source of infection.
* Less expensive that root canal and crown.

Replacement drawbacks:

* Replacing an extracted tooth requires more time cost for treatment that will result in further trauma to neighboring teeth and supporting tissue.
* The tooth would then be replaced with a bridge, implant, or removable partial denture to restore chewing function and prevent adjacent teeth from shifting.
* Investment in a bridge and implant that will function as well as a natural tooth.

No tooth replacement consequences:

* The face looks older, the lips appear thin and flattened and the chin moves forward.
* The bone erodes away and neighboring teeth move to fill the space while opposing teeth move in.
* Missing teeth can cause other teeth to shift, affect your ability to properly chew and ruin your smile.

Root Canal

Benefits:

* Saving your natural teeth is the very best option, if possible.
* No further trauma to neighboring teeth or supporting tissue.

Unpredictable Drawbacks of Root Canal:

* Undetected crack in root.
* Breakdown of the tooth or seal over time causing reinfection.

**Missing Teeth Treatment Options**

No Treatment

* Greater expense and trauma to replace later.
* Over time, your face looks older, the lips appear thin and flattened and the chin moves forward.
* At the spot extraction, bone erodes away creating the sinking face.
* The neighboring and opposing teeth move to fill the space causing unnecessary shifting.
* Your teeth shifting affect your ability to properly chew and possibly breaking other teeth and ruining your smile.

Dental Implant-Best Treatment Option

Benefits:

* The most effective at preserving bone, is fixed and not removable.
* Does not affect any other healthy teeth, do not have to cut adjacent teeth for a bridge or anchor for a partial denture.
* Looks and functions like a natural tooth and is easy to floss.
* Fills the space and prevents teeth from shifting.

Drawbacks:

* More expensive and longer treatment time than alternatives.

Dental Bridge- Better Treatment Option

Benefits:

* Fixed and not removable and looks like your natural teeth.
* Shorter treatment time, two visits and two weeks.
* Less costly than implants.

Drawbacks:

* Difficult to floss and you will continue to lose bone in that area.
* To secure the bridge adjacent teeth must be cut down to use as anchors.
* Usually needs to be replaced every seven years, depending on oral health.

Removable Partial Denture- Good Treatment Option

Benefits:

* Least expensive treatment option.
* Looks like your natural tooth.

Drawbacks:

* Is removable and needs to be removed to be cleaned after every meal and at night.
* Relies on metal clasps to anchor on teeth, which are visible and creates stress and wear on anchored teeth.
* Bone loss still occurs in the area.
* Can be uncomfortable with plastic and metal in your mouth all day.

**Full Arch of Missing Teeth Treatment Options**

Fixed Dental Implants-Best Treatment Option

Benefits:

* The most effective at preserving bone.
* Boosts your self-esteem and confidence.
* More secure and comfortable than full dentures.
* No worrying about falling out of your mouth when talking, coughing, sneezing, chewing.
* Looks and functions like your natural teeth.

Drawbacks:

* More expensive and longer treatment time than full denture.
* Implants are still prone to infection and failure like natural teeth if oral health is poor.

Removable Denture- Good Treatment Option

Benefits:

* Least expensive treatment option for replacing missing teeth.
* Looks like your natural smile.

Drawbacks:

* Complete dentures rely on cheek muscles, lips, salvia and sometimes your tongue to stay in place. Can be uncomfortable!
* Is removable and needs to be removed to be cleaned after every meal and at night.
* Bone loss still occurs and becomes more difficult to get retention over time.
* Can be uncomfortable with plastic and in your mouth all day.

**Full Arch Fixed Dental Implants Treatment Options**

Removable Overdenture (2-4 Implants)– Snap On- Good

Benefits:

* Most affordable implant retained denture option.
* No more dealing with messy adhesives or ugly clasps.
* More stability over regular denture. The denture will not suddenly slip when talking, eating, chewing & laughing.
* Can hide lost gum tissue in an aesthetic way.
* Not as expensive as screw retained denture with more implants.

Drawbacks:

* More expensive than dentures.
* More of a chance of getting sore spots.
* If one denture fails, you need a new denture and another implant surgery.

Implant Retained Hybrid Denture – Fixed - Better

Benefits:

* Increased confidence and stability over regular denture and snap on denture.
* The denture will not suddenly slip when talking, eating, chewing & laughing.
* No bone graft needed in most cases.
* Can get new teeth in a day.
* Overall shorter treatment time.
* More affordable than fixed porcelain with more stability than snap on removable.

Drawbacks:

* Bulkier than natural teeth or fixed bridges with implants.
* Usually made of acrylic, which is more porous and more difficult to clean than porcelain.
* If one implant fails it can be costly to repair.

Implant Retained Porcelain Bridges- Fixed - Best

Benefits:

* Acts like dental bridges, no teeth movement.
* Teeth are made of porcelain so looks like natural teeth, no denture flanges.
* Even if one implant fails, the replacement works fine.

Drawbacks:

* Cannot be done on all patients, based on bone availability.
* 3 bridges on 6 implants, most costly option.