All-on-4 or Full-Arch Bridge Problems: What to Do Next

Canonical: https://directory.collinsstreetspecialistcentre.com.au/treatment-guides/all-on-4-or-full-arch-bridge-problems-what-to-do-next/

Description:

Cracked, loose or temporary All-on-4 or full-arch bridge? Why it happens, how our specialists assess each implant, and re-treatment options in Melbourne.

Details:

If your All-on-4 or other full-arch bridge has cracked, keeps loosening, traps food or has never moved past the temporary stage, it is worth having the bridge and every implant beneath it checked. Full-arch treatment replaces a whole row of teeth on several implants, so a fault in the bridge, one implant or the bite can affect your whole mouth.

What full-arch problems do people bring to us?

- A bridge that has cracked, chipped or broken
- A bridge or its screws that keep working loose
- One or more supporting implants that are loose or infected
- Food caught under the bridge and trouble cleaning it
- Changes to speech, lip support or appearance
- A bite that feels wrong, or aching jaw muscles
- A temporary bridge that was never swapped for a final one

What makes a full-arch bridge run into trouble?

- The design or material of the bridge: too thin, made from a material that does not suit the forces involved, or hard to clean
- Biting forces: clenching or heavy biting, especially against natural teeth or a second implant bridge
- Where and how many implants were placed: positions that cannot support the bridge well, or too few implants for the load
- Gum and bone health: peri-implantitis around one or more implants
- Unfinished treatment: a temporary bridge kept in for longer than it was meant to be

How do we assess a full-arch case?

Your first step is a complimentary review: you sit down with our practice principal, general dentist Dr Kia Pajouhesh, and talk through the history of your bridge. It costs nothing, it does not oblige you to book further assessment or treatment, and there is no deadline for taking it up. Any specialist assessment or imaging that follows is charged, and the fee is explained before you book. Assessment can then include:

- taking the bridge off where appropriate, so each implant can be checked on its own
- x-rays and 3D cone beam CT imaging
- checking your bite, jaw joints and facial support
- planning together between our prosthodontists and oral surgeon, with our periodontist where gums or bone are a concern

What could re-treatment look like?

Depending on the findings, the bridge may be repaired or remade in a design that suits the forces involved and that you can clean, worn or broken screws and parts may be replaced, infection around single implants may be treated, or extra implants added where support falls short. The bite can be adjusted and a night guard made. Where one implant has failed, it can be removed and the plan built around the implants that remain. We aim to keep sound implants and plan new work around them.

Who may be involved?

Prosthodontists Prof Vasileios Chronopoulos, Dr Fotios Angelis and Dr Jamie Foong, each with specialist registration in prosthodontics; Dr Ricky Kumar, with specialist registration in oral and maxillofacial surgery; and Dr Simon Hinckfuss, with specialist registration in both periodontics and prosthodontics. Check any registration on the AHPRA register.

Frequently asked questions

My All-on-4 bridge has cracked. Will I need new implants?

Usually not. As long as the implants themselves are healthy, a cracked bridge can often be repaired or remade on the implants you already have.

Is it a problem that I have had a temporary bridge for more than a year?

Temporary bridges are not built to last long term and tend to crack and wear. Have the implants and the bridge assessed.

Can you take over full-arch treatment that was started somewhere else, including overseas?

Yes. Bring every record and implant detail you can find, and see our guide to problems after dental treatment overseas.

Results, recovery times and risks vary for each individual.

Arrange a full-arch review

Call (03) 9650 2726, or +61 3 9650 2726 from overseas, to book your complimentary review with us in the Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Related pages

- Complex Case Review and Second Opinion

- A dental implant that feels loose or sore
- All-on-4 full-arch implant rehabilitation
- Specialist full-arch rehabilitation for interstate and international patients
- Full-arch and All-on-4 problems on our website