

CONGENITALLY MISSING TEETH

Congenitally missing teeth occur when one or more of the baby or adult teeth never develop. Early diagnosis is critical to minimize complications and maximize treatment options.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the causes of congenitally missing teeth?

- Genetic factors which are often passed down among family generations-biological parents pass the condition to their children.
- Studies show that about 20% of adults are missing at least one tooth, and 5% of adults are missing more than one tooth.

2. How would I know if I have congenitally missing teeth?

- The normal eruption pattern of the teeth may be altered.
- X-rays show that the teeth are missing.

3. Which are the teeth most commonly missing?

- The third molars or wisdom teeth.
- The upper lateral incisors which sit on either side of the two front teeth.
- The second premolars located in front of your back molars.

4. What are possible complications caused by congenitally missing teeth?

- Smile problems due to the gaps between the teeth.
- The remaining teeth may shift to positions which could cause an unstable bite.
- The jaws may lose their shape.
- Shifting of the remaining teeth into positions that make cleaning difficult.
- There is a higher risk of cancer, particularly colon and ovarian if six or more teeth are missing in addition to the wisdom teeth.
- Smaller than normal other teeth and delayed eruption of the remaining teeth.

5. What are some of the treatments for congenitally missing teeth?

- A bridge permanently cemented to the adjacent teeth.
- A removable partial denture.
- A bridge that is bonded to the enamel of the adjacent teeth.
- Dental implants.
- Orthodontic treatment.
- Leave the space as it is.



Patient congenitally missing teeth



Minor orthodontic treatment and implant crowns



Congenitally missing tooth



Bonded bridge



Removable partial denture



Bridge bonded in place