

#DM2002-28

“BRIDGES”

PATIENTS MAY WONDER WHY THEY NEED A BRIDGE. IF YOU'RE MISSING ONE OR MORE TEETH, YOU MAY BE AWARE OF A CHANGE TO YOUR APPEARANCE AND DENTAL HEALTH.

YOUR TEETH WORK TOGETHER TO HELP YOU CHEW, SPEAK AND SMILE. WHEN YOU LACK TEETH, IT'S SOMETIMES NOT AS EASY TO DO THESE THINGS. FORTUNATELY, MISSING TEETH CAN BE REPLACED. THE SOLUTION MAY BE A BRIDGE.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF BRIDGES - A FIXED BRIDGE AND A REMOVABLE BRIDGE.

A FIXED BRIDGE IS CEMENTED TO THE NATURAL TEETH NEXT TO THE SPACE LEFT BY THE MISSING TOOTH AND BECOMES A PERMANENT PART OF YOUR MOUTH.

A REMOVABLE BRIDGE ALLOWS YOU TO TAKE THE BRIDGE OUT FOR CLEANING. REMOVABLE BRIDGES ARE GENERALLY LESS EXPENSIVE, BUT MAY NOT BE AS STABLE AS FIXED BRIDGES.

THE TYPE OF BRIDGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU MAY DEPEND ON YOUR CURRENT ORAL HEALTH. YOU AND YOUR DENTIST CAN DETERMINE WHICH TYPE IS BEST FOR YOU .

FOR THE ADA DENTAL MINUTE, I'M DR. MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL.