

What are the risks?

There is evidence that transplants are successful. Possible risks include:

- Pain.
- Infection causing the gum not to heal and the tooth may be lost (low risk).
- The nerve within the tooth does not survive and needs a root filling.
- Resorption (dissolving away) of the root, eventually leading to loss of the tooth (low risk).

In most cases, a premolar tooth would have been taken out as part of your orthodontic treatment. The transplant replaces a missing or damaged tooth. If the transplant does not work, it often takes many years to fail (usually without any problems) but will preserve the bone for the possibility of dental implants.

What happens after a tooth transplant?

You will need regular follow-up appointments to check the health of the tooth. This will involve examining your teeth and taking x-rays as necessary. Depending on the growth of the transplanted tooth, it may need a root filling soon after the transplant.

What are the possible options if I do not want a transplant?

There are several options that may be available:

- Accept the missing/damaged tooth.
- Braces to close spaces where there are missing teeth.
- Denture: A tooth on a removable plate.

- Dental bridge: A false tooth glued onto another tooth.
- Dental implant: A false tooth on a titanium screw put into the jaw bone (not an option until you have stopped growing).

These options will be discussed with you at the assessment clinic. The final decision is yours.

It is important that you fully understand what is involved in having a premolar transplant before you decide to proceed. If you have any further questions you can write them in the space below and ask your orthodontist or other team members at your next visit.

NOT FOR REPRODUCTION

TOOTH TRANSPLANTS



Your orthodontist/paediatric dentist has mentioned that you may need a **tooth transplant**. You may have some questions you would like answered.

What is a tooth transplant?

This means that one of your own teeth is removed and moved to another place in your mouth. Transplant teeth are often the premolar teeth. The premolar teeth are found in between the eye teeth (canines) and the larger molar teeth.

Why might I need to have a premolar transplant?

A front tooth that has been knocked out or damaged/missing may need to be replaced to improve appearance and function. As part of orthodontic treatment, premolar teeth are often removed to make room to straighten teeth. Where premolars need to be extracted, one of these may be transplanted to replace the injured or missing front tooth.

How will I be assessed?

You will be seen by an orthodontist and other specialists to assess if you are suitable for a premolar transplant. They will have a look at your teeth and take some x-rays. Not everyone is suitable for a premolar transplant and other options may be more appropriate. These will all be discussed at the assessment appointment. Oral hygiene must be of a high standard for a transplant to be considered.

Using your own tooth to replace a missing tooth has many advantages:

- The tooth will maintain its new position as you grow and can be moved with braces.

- In many cases, the transplanted tooth will function like your original tooth.
- It holds the space and the bone for the future and allows options such as dental implants (if needed) later in life.

How is a premolar transplant done?

- The transplant is usually done under general anaesthesia but can be done under local anaesthesia.
- The damaged front tooth is taken out, usually at the time of the transplant. If the tooth is missing, space is made in the jaw bone to allow the transplanted tooth to be placed.
- The premolar tooth (transplant) is taken out and carefully moved into its new position. It may be held in place by a wire glued onto adjacent teeth (a splint).
- The gum is then allowed to heal and the wire taken off 7-10 days after the transplant.



A splinted transplant to replace a front tooth

- Depending on the growth of the transplanted tooth root, a root filling may be needed.
- Tooth-coloured filling material is glued to the outside of the transplanted tooth to make it look like a front tooth.



Transplanted tooth built-up with tooth coloured filling material

Do I need braces?

In some cases, fixed or removable braces may be needed before the transplant is done to make the correct space. After a period of healing, braces may be used to straighten the teeth.

Will it be painful?

The surgery is not painful, as the area will be made numb with local anaesthetic. It is likely to be sore after the anaesthetic has worn off. If painful, simple painkillers such as those you would normally take for a headache should be used – please follow the instructions on the packet.

What do I need to do after the transplant?

- You need to keep the area clean with gentle brushing around the area using fluoride toothpaste.
- For the first week, you may be asked to gently use a salty mouth rinse or a chlorhexidine mouthwash to keep the mouth clean to allow the gums to heal.
- Stay away from contact sports until the transplant has healed and then always use a mouthguard.

How long will the treatment take?

The transplant will be done in one day but there may be the need for braces before and afterwards which may take over 2 years. Transplants are carried out when there is the best chance of success. This may mean waiting for more of your teeth to grow into the mouth before treatment can start.