

Ask the Dentist 9/18/10 attn: Paul Schulteis

Dear Dr. Winter, I'm 50 years old and I currently wear upper and lower partial dentures. My upper is broken, (missing a clasp and a tooth) and one of my front upper natural teeth has now broken off. I'm embarrassed by my smile. I deal a lot with the public and am dying to have a nice white smile that I can be proud of. Just wondering what affordable options may be available.

Dear Dave, I am sorry for your problems. Partial dentures weaken the teeth they are clasping on to and create forces that will lead to loosening and fracture of the "abutment" or retainer teeth. Think of chewing on the denture teeth, the pressure they produce acts like a lever on the clasps, which act similar to a crowbar on the clasped teeth. We consider partial dentures to be a temporary prosthesis in our practice until a more stable Upgradeable option can be utilized. It is noteworthy that people with partials often use their natural teeth a lot more than their denture teeth which leads to "overworking" these teeth (greater bending) and increased risk of fracture.

Without evaluating your remaining teeth (including the broken front tooth and root), the bone level that remains under your existing partials and evaluating your bite-I can't give you options on the Internet. Affordable means a lot of things to people. If you spend money on a temporary solution, like new partials, you may experience further fracture or tooth loss so this is less expensive over the short term. These quick fixes can cost more than choosing a comprehensive solution that could last many years as partials will require relines, repair of fractured teeth and clasps and most importantly will produce bone loss over time that will be very costly to replace at a later date! These long-term solutions may involve bone grafting and implant retained dentures or bridges. We are happy to see you for a comprehensive examination visit or a complimentary consultation. Please call us at 414-464-9021 to schedule your visit and let them know you contacted me via the Internet for a special consideration. Comprehensive examinations are discounted from \$279 to \$150 for people that have contacted us via the Internet. Examples of our dentistry, videos

and photos are all available at our main website:

[www.winterdental.com](http://www.winterdental.com)

You may also find out about our interest free financing options under "prevent worse" on our websites.

We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely, Dr. Rick and Dr. Bruce Winter

Bruce Winter D.D.S.

Board of Directors MATC

Richard Winter D.D.S.M.A.G.D.M.I.C.O.I.

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