

Ask the dentist

By Drs. Ronald & Todd Powell

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Advertorial

Can't Remove the Temporary Bridge

Question: I had a three tooth permanent bridge supported by two implants placed in the upper front area. The doctor used temporary cement for a "trial run" to see if I liked the shape and color. After I explained that I would like the teeth longer and whiter, he tried to remove the bridge but could not get it out and told me he did not want to risk damaging the underlying implants. What can I do?

~Charlotte from Cary

Answer: Not an uncommon experience for us "keepers of the teeth." Always a topic of discussion at the dinner table when the spouse of the dentist says: "How was work today, honey?" It's actually a testament to how well your doc's lab work fits.

If the implants are well integrated in the bone, as they should be since a permanent bridge was made, a tap-off bridge remover can be used to dislodge the bridge. It's ok if the bridge is damaged since it has to go back to the lab anyway for aesthetic porcelain changes. He/She will make you a temporary bridge to use while the lab is working on your bridge work.



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