

Missing teeth lead to other problems

Dr. Jonathan J. Bromboz

Some people have a tooth ache and go, “just pull it Doc.” I understand this, because there is discomfort and the person just wants it to be over. But if you had a headache you wouldn't say “just cut off my head.”

If you do have to have a tooth pulled or you have had teeth pulled in the past, many people think they can just leave the space there and it doesn't make any difference. The offending tooth is gone and there is no pain so why do anything about it.

The problem is, when there is a space left by the tooth that was taken out, the teeth on either side begin to shift and tilt into the empty space. This creates a domino effect in that the other teeth than tilt into the space left by the teeth that shifted. Also the teeth above (or below) the empty space grow down (or up) into that space as they don't have anything to chew against.

This shifting and movement of the teeth can cause problems to the way your teeth come together and the way you are able to bite down and can give you headaches.

We have models of people's teeth with which all of this has occurred to show to you if you aren't familiar with this. Our intention here is to educate. We can show you what you can do to replace the missing tooth or teeth.

This situation is especially true with children who have decay in their baby teeth and have to have a baby tooth pulled early on before the permanent tooth is ready to come in. If a baby tooth is pulled early, leaving a space, the teeth on either side move into that space and then there is no room for the permanent tooth to come in and so you get crooked teeth. A “spacer” can be put in to hold the space until the permanent tooth is ready to come in.

So both adults and children need to fill the empty space left by a tooth that has been pulled.

Dr. Bromboz has been creating radiant smiles for over 30 years. He's in Clearwater at 727-712-3837