

## **Canine Substitution** *for Missing Lateral Incisor*

Canine substitution can be an excellent treatment option when a patient is missing one or both upper lateral incisors. This treatment option involves moving the teeth behind the missing tooth forward into the space of the missing lateral incisors. The canines are then reshaped to look like a lateral incisor.

This method of tooth replacement is not a possibility for every patient. Dr. Cooke plays the key role in evaluating your occlusion (bite), profile, lip levels, and canine shape and color. Your dentist will recreate the ideal lateral incisor shape and color after orthodontic treatment has been completed.

Guidelines for Canine Substitution Candidates:

1. The patient must have Class II molar position with no lower crowding of the teeth OR Class I molar position with lower crowding severe enough to require removal of lower adult teeth
2. The patient must have a clinically balanced profile
3. The patient should have a relatively low lip line when smiling

These factors will be determined and discussed with you during Dr. Cooke's clinical exam.

PROS:

- ❖ The patient will have only their natural teeth.
- ❖ The patient does not have to invest in an implant or bridge.
- ❖ With some enamel re-contouring, the canine can look very similar to the lateral incisor.

CONS:

- ❖ The length of your gum tissue may not look natural. This can be improved with a gingivectomy.
- ❖ The canine root is more prominent and in a high smile line may be more noticeable.
- ❖ Some enamel needs to be removed from the canine to get a better shape. This can make the canine look a little darker and may need either individual bleaching or a veneer.

Alternatives:

Create ideal space for the missing lateral incisor and place implant or bridge for missing tooth.

