

IMMEDIATE DENTURES

What is an immediate denture?

An immediate denture is a complete denture or partial denture which is fitted immediately after your natural teeth have been removed.

What are the advantages of an immediate denture?

The most important factor is that you will not have a period of time without a denture as your gums heal. You are therefore able to maintain your appearance.

What are disadvantages of an immediate denture?

It is not possible to assess the exact appearance of your immediate denture before your teeth are removed and the denture is fitted or the accurate shape of the supporting bone after the teeth will be removed. The initial fit of the immediate denture is therefore likely to be looser than would be the case if a denture was being constructed for a patient who did not require extractions. The dentist and the dental technician cannot tell exactly what shape your gums will form when your teeth have been removed and it is common for an immediate denture to require some initial alterations. You may need to use a little denture adhesive.

During the healing period your gums tighten and shrink, changing shape, and this means that your denture is likely to become loose and may require adjustments and/or relining (which may require you to be without your denture for a day or two).

In the long term when healing is complete you may need a new denture. For this reason immediate dentures are sometimes known as temporary dentures.

Getting used to your immediate denture

It may take some time to become accustomed to your new denture. Some problems are normal when you are getting used to your new denture; you may find it moves when you chew, you may notice some difficulty speaking normally and a little more saliva in your mouth.

The muscles of your mouth have to learn to control your denture for talking and eating and this takes different amounts of time with different people. It can take longer if you have never worn a denture before. You may wish to choose a time to have this treatment when you have no important events to attend in the near future.

Most people start eating soft easy to chew foods while they are getting used to their new denture.

What are the alternatives?

The alternative is to have your teeth removed and allow a healing period of several months before having a denture made. This means being without a denture for those months. The advantage is that your gums heal and shrink before your denture is made and your denture will fit better and probably need fewer adjustments. The disadvantage is that you will have no denture teeth replacing the teeth you have lost.