

## Information on Partial, Complete and Immediate Dentures



### Time Frame

It is important to note that the fabrication of your dentures will require a series of appointments, typically ranging from 6 to 8 visits. The initial appointment involves creating the first set of stone casts. However, if you have recently undergone tooth extractions, it is crucial to allow a minimum of 8 weeks for proper healing before the denture fabrication process can begin. Keep in mind that additional appointments may be necessary for denture relines or remakes to ensure a proper fit and comfort.

### Possible Delays

Please be aware that there may be certain delays in the fabrication and delivery of your dentures. These delays can occur due to factors such as the need for additional healing time, which is recommended to be 8 weeks or more, considering your individual healing response. Additionally, if you require additional surgeries like alveoloplasty or tuberosity procedures, it will require extra healing time, further affecting the overall timeline.

### Difficulties and Problems with Wearing Dentures

It is important to understand that wearing dentures may come with certain difficulties and problems. Some of these challenges include difficulties with speaking or eating, the possibility of food getting trapped under the dentures, functional issues, loose dentures, lack of retention, and the potential need for adhesives like Polident or Fixodent for improved stability. Other factors to consider are the feeling of fullness, saliva production, and the effects of poor ridge shape and form. In some cases, certain medications can decrease saliva production, which may result in increased sore spots and difficulties adapting to the dentures. However, it's worth noting that excessive saliva production initially is normal and tends to return to normal over time. Moreover, poor ridge shape and form can also have an impact, potentially requiring future relines or remakes of partial, immediate, or conventional dentures.

### Immediate Dentures

If you are considering immediate dentures, it is essential to understand that they are transitional dentures and will require relining or remaking, typically within 3 to 6 months following insertion. Please note that the fees for required laboratory relines or remakes of immediate dentures are not included in the immediate denture fee. Minor adjustments and temporary tissue conditioning relines may be required during the first 6 months, and these are covered by the immediate denture fee.

## **Immediate Dentures vs. Conventional Dentures**

Comparing immediate dentures to conventional dentures, the former involves inserting the denture on the same day as the remaining front teeth are extracted, while the latter is typically fabricated 8 to 12 weeks after the removal of all remaining teeth. It is important to consider that delayed denture (conventional) fabrication offers advantages such as potentially fewer adjustments and a lower fee compared to immediate dentures.

## **Denture Relines and Remakes**

Denture relines and remakes may be necessary even if the dentures are made 8 weeks after tooth removal. This is due to the continued bone resorption (shrinkage) of the ridges, especially in patients with a history of smoking, periodontal disease, or extensive oral surgery associated with tooth removal. Please note that there will be a charge for any laboratory relines or remakes required due to continued ridge resorption or bone loss following delayed denture construction.

## **Benefits of Longer Healing after Extractions**

Allowing for a longer healing time after tooth extraction before starting denture fabrication (beyond the recommended 8 weeks) is preferable. Patients who have dentures made 6 months or more following tooth loss tend to experience fewer relines or remakes during the first year of wearing new dentures. However, it is important to understand that there is no guarantee that a reline or remake of the denture will not be required due to continued bone resorption.

Please be aware that you will be charged for a reline or denture remake in the event that it is required due to continued bone resorption of the ridge. On average, dentures usually require a laboratory reline or remake approximately once every four years due to functional wear and/or continued bone resorption. It is important to note that this bone resorption will continue throughout your lifetime, making subsequent denture construction more challenging, less satisfying, and less comfortable compared to your previous denture experience.

## **Patient Expectations for Dentures**

Regarding patient expectations for dentures, it is important to understand that we cannot guarantee that you will be able to successfully and comfortably wear a well-constructed denture. However, we promise to do our best to provide you with the most suitable treatment based on your specific oral condition. It is crucial to acknowledge that dentures should not be considered a replacement for natural teeth but rather a replacement for the absence of teeth. They do not function exactly like real teeth, and at best, you can expect approximately 15-20% efficiency compared to your natural teeth.

Lastly, once the adjustments are completed, it is recommended that you return to the clinic for at least a yearly recall. Please note that the frequency of these recalls may depend on your insurance coverage, and there may be associated costs involved.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.**

## Information on Denture Fabrication Steps

- If you have teeth that need to be extracted or bone that needs to be removed, you will have to wait 6-8 weeks to heal before we can begin making your dentures.
- A minimum of 1 week is needed between each appointment since the work is sent to an off-site lab for processing.
- It will take a minimum of 6 appointments to make your dentures from start to finish and some steps may need to be repeated to ensure the best possible fit.

*What to expect;*



### **Appointment #1: Preliminary Impressions**

Impressions will be taken so custom trays can be made.

### **Appointment #2: Final Impressions**

Using the custom trays, a more accurate impression will be taken.

If you are getting a partial denture small indentations will be made to some of your natural teeth in order to better accommodate the partial denture.

### **Appointment #3: Bite Record**

Your bite will be recorded (measured) using wax rims and tooth shade will be selected.

### **Appointment #4: Wax Try-in**

All of your teeth for your dentures will be set in wax so you can approve the shade and arrangement of the teeth. *A consent form has to be signed at this step.*

### **Appointment #5: Delivery**

You will receive the finished dentures to take home along with home care instructions.

### **Appointment #6: Adjustments**

It is common to return for adjustments as sore spots will begin to appear with use.

Please be patient, we understand you would like to have your dentures as soon as possible but these steps need to be followed to ensure you receive the best possible service.