

# IMMEDIATE DENTURE

Congratulations on receiving your immediate denture! There are several important things to keep in mind with this prosthetic device – please follow all instructions carefully.

## **DAY 1:**

You will have your immediate denture placed into your mouth immediately after the completion of dental surgery (extractions). **Keep your denture in place for the first 24 hours after surgery** (including while sleeping). Your denture acts as a bandage to help control bleeding and limit swelling. If there is excessive bleeding or soreness, or you feel that you cannot keep the denture in place for any other reason, please call us.

## **WEEK 1:**

After the first 24 hours, you should carefully remove your denture twice a day and gently rinse your mouth with salt water – do **NOT** spit; instead, let the water dribble out of your mouth. Clean the denture by gently brushing it with a denture brush and rinsing it with water. Put the denture back immediately after cleaning, as swelling may occur and you may be unable to reinsert the denture if you wait too long. If you have any remaining natural teeth in your mouth, you should brush those after you reinsert the denture.

On day four (4) after your surgery, you should remove your denture at bedtime and store it in water with denture cleaning solution. Brush the denture and rinse it with water before putting it back into your mouth when you wake up.

It is common to get sore spots with immediate dentures. You may feel like you are gagging, like you suddenly have a lot of saliva, or like your bite is off. Sometimes you may have soreness of the throat, difficulty swallowing or speaking. These and other issues can be overcome with proper healing, with your dentist adjusting your dentures to fit your mouth, and as you get used to wearing your denture. **It is very important to return for your post-operative follow up visits.** The first visit is usually 1-7 days after your surgery. Your dentist will provide you with more instructions at that visit. You should expect to return to the office several times to monitor healing and to adjust the denture.

**SMOKING:** Do **NOT** smoke **ANYTHING** for three (3) days after surgery.

**TO REMOVE THE DENTURE:**

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If your denture is replacing all teeth in the jaw, put a clean finger under the back outer edge of the denture to help break the suction that is holding the denture in place. If your denture is a partial denture and has clasps, carefully release the metal clasps. Do **NOT** attempt to remove the denture by pulling on the teeth.

The denture may feel very snug and be difficult to remove – this is normal and is due to swelling that normally occurs after oral surgery. The denture may feel loose and uneven – this is also normal, and usually occurs because the shape of your jaw bone after extractions cannot be predicted with complete accuracy when making an immediate denture.

### ***DIET:***

You can eat with your denture – it may feel awkward, uncomfortable, and will probably take longer than you are used to. Eat soft, cool foods for at least 3 days.. Avoid hot foods or drinks. Avoid chewing for the first 24 hours as it can create a pumping motion with the denture which can pull out blood clots and re-start bleeding. Do **NOT** use a straw.

### ***FIT OF IMMEDIATE DENTURES:***

Immediate dentures require the dentist and the dental laboratory to attempt to predict what your mouth will look like after the teeth are extracted – this cannot be done with complete accuracy. Therefore, the immediate denture will not fit perfectly. As your mouth heals after the extractions, the bone that used to hold the teeth will start to shrink, which will cause the denture to become loose over time. This may take a few days or a few months. You will likely need a reline for your denture (a new inner surface) or a new traditional denture made after the mouth heals in order to achieve the best look and fit for your prosthetic teeth. **Insurance will usually NOT pay for both an immediate denture and a traditional denture, so you should be aware of potential financial commitments that immediate dentures require.**

***If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (215) 525-3046.***