

A denture is a device which can be worn by a patient to replace one or more missing teeth.

It may be made entirely of a plastic material called acrylic or it may be made of a combination of acrylic and a metal called chromium cobalt.



A denture may have only a few teeth if the patient has some or most of their own teeth. It is called a **partial denture**.



In some patients, all the natural teeth have been lost and the teeth are replaced by a full or **complete denture**.

Dentures form one option in the replacement of

missing teeth. Other alternatives include leaving the gap(s) unfilled or replacing the gaps with a bridge or implant(s). Your dentist will explain all the advantages and disadvantages of all the methods of tooth replacement together with their costs.

To produce a denture, you would need to attend the practice on several occasions. Having decided on the denture most suited to your mouth and your consent to proceed with its manufacture, the first stage consists of taking impressions of the mouth. This involves the use of a soft, elastic, rubbery, cold-feeling material which is placed in a tray shaped to your jaw and the tray and the material is pressed on to the teeth. The material forms an impression, which sets after two or three minutes, after which it can be removed from the mouth.

From the impression a model of the teeth and gums is made.

A wax block, which fits the jaw is then made and, at the second appointment, the position of the teeth can be recorded. The shape and colour of the teeth can also be agreed with you.



At the third appointment, a model of the denture which has been made in a wax material on which the teeth are mounted, is tried in the mouth. You will then be able to see how it looks and whether the colour and shape of the teeth meet your expectations.

If you are happy with the trial denture, it can then be finished in plastic and, at the fourth appointment, the completed denture can be fitted and checked.

An additional appointment may be required if the wax model needs adjusting.

If a chrome cobalt denture is provided, an extra appointment will be required to try in the metal skeleton before the bite can be recorded and the teeth chosen.

How will new dentures feel?

For most people, new dentures will feel strange, awkward and uncomfortable, especially if a denture has never been worn before. It may take up to a few weeks to become accustomed to them. They may feel tight and sometimes they may feel loose initially. Sometimes they may cause soreness in a particular area if too tight. They may also make your mouth water more. Occasionally they may even make you feel as though you want to gag during the initial few times that they are worn.

Will I be able to eat and speak with my dentures.

Eating will require some practice. You should start with soft foods cut into small pieces. Chew slowly and try to eat using both sides of the mouth to stop the denture from moving. You may also find some difficulty in initially pronouncing certain words. The tongue soon learns to make adjustments to enable your speech to normalise. It is recommended that you spend an hour on a few occasions reading out loud to help you to learn to pronounce words clearly.

How long will my dentures last?

Dentures should give good service but will normally need to be replaced after some years because of normal wear and tear. There may also be changes in the teeth and the shape of the mouth. It is important to replace worn, poorly fitting or damaged dentures before they start to cause problems.

How should I take care of my dentures?

Denture care should form part of the overall care of the mouth. Therefore, a denture wearer should have:

1. A regular dental check-up
2. Pay careful attention to oral hygiene for the whole of the mouth. Dentures increase the risk of food stagnation, if not cleaned, which can increase the risk of decay and gum disease. This may result in further tooth loss.

To clean your dentures:

1. Clean the denture twice daily with tap water and a denture brush and paste
2. Remove dentures at night. This allows the gums to rest and reduce the risk of mouth infections
3. Leave the dentures in cold water overnight in a container with a lid. Denture cleaner can be used but only soak the dentures in it for 20 minutes, not overnight.

Dentures cannot replace natural teeth but, with care, they can provide a cosmetic and functional solution to the problem of lost teeth.

PATIENT CONSENT

I hereby consent to the provision of dentures.

The technique and procedure has been explained to me by:

(name of dentist)

The dentist has explained about the nature of the treatment and its purpose, together with any significant risks and problems, disadvantages and alternatives. I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions and understand that, should any changes in the treatment be required, they will be explained to me and my specific consent obtained.

I confirm that I have given correct information about my general health and up to date medical history including any medications that I may be taking at the time of the procedure.

I have informed the practice of any medication and allergies of which I am aware.

Name of Patient

Signature

Date

Name of Dentist

Signature

Date



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