



2409 Lakeview Pkwy #300
Rowlett, TX 75088
972-412-2828

Dentures Post Operative Instructions

Beginning Period

Most new dentures require a breaking in period before they become comfortable. This length of time varies with each individual patient depending upon their ability, determination, and perseverance to learn how to use them. You must first learn to keep them in place, and then gradually start to use them.

What to Expect

It is normal for you to feel awkward at first with your new dentures. Your saliva will increase. Your appearance has probably undergone a slight change, your speech may seem altered, and you feel certain that your mouth is too full. Time, patience, and some training will soon bring about a relaxation of the facial muscles and begin to alleviate some of the apparent problems.

Looseness

If you have had teeth removed immediately prior to placement of the denture, it may feel loose, due mainly to the gum shrinkage that occurs as the gums heal. Complete healing of the gums and the underlying bone takes 3-6 months and some cases even longer. During this period a temporary liner may be placed inside the denture to keep it relatively snug. Denture adhesives will also help in this regard. Simply closing your teeth together and swallowing will help to seat the dentures by removing air and saliva from the interface.

Sore Spots

Soreness from uneven pressure on the gums may develop at any time, and is not unusual, especially if you have not worn a denture before. Sore spots are best corrected if the dentures are worn at least 3-6 hours before returning to the office for an adjustment appointment. This can allow a precise detection of the offending areas inside the denture, which are corrected by adjusting the denture with special instruments.

Eating

Start with soft foods or those that are easy to chew. Take small bites and chew slowly. Keep the food distributed evenly on both sides and chew on the back teeth. . If the denture begins to dislodge, biting with the side teeth may be an easier alternative. More difficult foods will require a gradual learning curve. Initially, it is recommended that you avoid chewy, sticky foods.

Speaking

Learning to talk with your new dentures in place requires some patience and perseverance. Reading aloud is a very good way to learn to enunciate distinctly. Careful practice and repetition may help to hasten the process and produce a return to your normal, confident speech.

Mouth and Denture Hygiene

It is extremely important to clean your dentures with a soft brush and an enzymatic or special cleaning solution like Efferdent. Because foods and bacteria will stick to the soft tissues of your mouth, it is also beneficial to brush the roof of your mouth and your tongue daily. Massaging and stimulating these tissues will reduce the incidence of inflammation and sore spots. Use a cleaning paste for these soft tissues after each meal. Food particles that are trapped under the denture can cause inflammation of the gums and sore spots. You should remove your dentures for at least 6 hours daily, usually when going to bed at night, to give your gum tissues a rest. During this time, the dentures can be cleansed and placed in a cup of water to prevent them from drying out, which can cause the dentures to distort and not fit well.

If your dentures were placed over new extraction sites (immediate dentures), you may wear the dentures at night for the first 3 days. This will help to promote clotting, and prevent irritations to those sites. You may then resume the directions previously described and remove the dentures when sleeping.

Be sure to have your dentures checked at least once annually as changes in the mouth, such as bone loss, and a wearing of the teeth will inevitably occur.