

Immediate Dentures

You have just had an immediate denture placed in your mouth. The following information will assist you to understand the sequence of events during the healing period:

- Teeth have been removed from your mouth. Stitches may have been placed to help the mouth heal. If so, they will dissolve by themselves over several days, unless we tell you differently.
- Dentures have been placed to replace your missing teeth and gum tissue. Initially, these dentures will feel large and bulky until your gums have healed and shrunken slightly, at which time we will make the dentures thinner and less bulky. The dentures may cause your speech to be altered for a few days, but this feeling will disappear soon.
- Do not take the dentures out of your mouth today. We will remove them tomorrow. The new dentures serve as a bandage similar to a cast on a broken arm during initial healing. After the initial denture removal and adjustment by us, you should remove the dentures frequently for cleaning.
- Some discomfort is usually present when teeth are removed and immediate dentures are placed. The discomfort is due to one or two reasons:
 - a. The trauma of removing teeth. Within a few days the discomfort will go away.
 - b. The denture may have pressure spots. If so, the pressure spots will be observed and removed by us as soon as you tell us about the discomfort. It will not go away by itself.
- If you have been given antibiotics, it is important to continue with the therapy until all of the tablets are used.
- Use the pain relieving pills while you are experiencing discomfort.
- Your dentures have been relined today or will be relined in the near future with a soft material that makes them easier to wear and speeds healing. That material may be replaced during the initial healing period of 6 weeks or more. It is not the final denture material. Be careful not to dislodge this soft material when cleaning. The soft relines done during the healing process are included in the in the cost of your denture.
- As soon as convenient, place ice cubes in a plastic bag and place the bag externally on the area where the teeth were removed. This will reduce swelling and bruising. However, some swelling and bruising may still occur for a short time.
- Healing from tooth extractions continues for up to 18 months. Shrinkage of gums and bone is obvious during that time, but it slows thereafter. We recommend a hard reline 3-6 months after the initial surgery. This reline is not included in your initial fee. You may elect to have a second reline 18 months after the initial surgery. This reline is not included in your initial fee.
- After healing, denture soaks are also useful for the denture. Brush your gums with a regular toothbrush once per day to toughen and clean them. Brush your denture with mild toothpaste once per day. You may leave the dentures in or out of your mouth at night, depending on your preference. If they are out of your mouth, leave them soaking in water.
- Immediate dentures are a major change to your body. Don't worry if you are slow to adapt. Millions of others have been through this experience. We expect your eventual denture to serve well for many years.

Melissa A. Jarrell, DDS 453-4369