



## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON 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, unless we tell you differently.
- Dentures have been placed to replace your missing teeth and gum tissue. Today these dentures will feel large and bulky. The dentures may cause your speech to be altered for a few days. They will also be difficult to chew with at first. Take small bites of soft food until you learn to chew with them.
- Do not take the dentures out of your mouth today. 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, you may remove the dentures as needed for cleaning and overnight.
- Some discomfort is usually present when teeth are removed and immediate dentures are placed. The discomfort is due to one or two reasons:
  - o The trauma of removing teeth. This will heal rapidly and go away by itself.
  - o The denture may have a pressure spot. If so, that will be observed and removed by your DENTIST soon as you tell them about the discomfort. It will not go away by itself.
- If you have been given antibiotics, take them as directed until they are gone.
- Use the pain relieving pills only until the discomfort has gone.
- Your dentures may have been relined today with a soft material that makes them easier to wear and speeds healing. That material may be replaced during the initial 6-week or more healing period. It is not the final denture material. Be careful not to dislodge it when cleaning.
- As soon as convenient, place some ice cubes in a plastic bag and place the bag externally on the area where the teeth were removed. This will reduce the chances of swelling and bruising. However, some swelling and bruising may still occur for a short time.
- Your dentures will become looser as your gums shrink after surgery. Usually, after a 1-week post-op appointment, you can begin to use denture adhesive.
- After 3-6 months your denture will be relined to refine its fit to the healing supporting tissues. At this time the denture will appear, fit, and function as it was intended. Before that time it is not in its final state.

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- If the doctor has recommended **implants** to help support your denture, this will happen after 3-4 months and will also include a relining of your denture.
- Healing from tooth extractions continues for up to 18 months. Shrinkage of gums and bone is obvious during that time, but it slows thereafter. You may elect to have a second reline of the denture 18 months after the initial surgery.

\*\* Immediate dentures are a major change to your body. Sometimes, despite everyone's best efforts to fabricate the best immediate dentures, and adapt to them, a completely new (second) set of dentures is needed. If this is the case, you (the patient) will be responsible for the entire costs incurred for this second set of dentures.