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Information For Patients Who Receive Immediate Dentures

With the removal of nonrestorable teeth and the placement of immediate dentures, certain things are expected and normal.

The use of a new denture is a learning experience. When the immediate dentures are placed, it is necessary for you to learn how to use them. Begin by simply keeping the dentures in your mouth. The dentures will feel large and be accompanied by large amounts of saliva. The upper denture usually is easier to manage than the lower denture. At first it may be rather difficult to eat or speak. With patience, persistence and practice your dentures will serve you well.

After surgery, some discomfort will occur due to the extractions. **DO NOT** remove the dentures. If the dentures are removed, swelling may prevent the dentures from being reinserted. During the first 36 hours after surgery, keep your head elevated with ice packs to the face for twenty minutes on the right alternating with twenty minutes on the left. Take your pain medications as directed. Minor oozing of blood expected. **Gentle** rinsing with warm salt water may be used to cleanse the mouth. **DO NOT** remove the dentures.

During the first days after surgery, a very soft or liquid diet is to be eaten. Gradually the texture of the diet may be increased. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids during this period.

Difficulty with speaking and chewing is expected initially. Minor corrections in the bite will be accomplished several days after surgery. The user of a liner in the denture may aid healing and improve the fit of the denture.

When instructed, you may begin removing the dentures to clean them after meals and before bed. Always clean the denture over a sink filled with water. Scrub the external surface (tooth side) gently with a brush, soap and water. If a tissue liner has been used, gently cleanse it with a cotton gauze and running water. Always keep the dentures moist when they are not in your mouth.

Normally, as the mouth heals, there will be a change in the fit of dentures. Adjustments and relining of the dentures are often required. Occasionally, it may be necessary to smooth or remove an area of bony tissue should it become prominent or tender as the mouth heals.

Immediate dentures offer you the advantage of never being without teeth. However, the impressions are not as precise as with conventional dentures, the bite is more difficult to perfect and relining of the denture is usually necessary.

A good attitude, patience, practice and persistence will help make your experience a good one. Please contact the office if I can be of help.