

Franklin House Dental Practice

information sheet for patients dentures

What are they?

One of the available treatments to replace missing teeth. The others are bridges and implants. Depending on each patient's individual needs, the condition of existing teeth and gums, the dentist will decide which of the different types of dentures will be most suitable. This means choosing the material of the base on to which the artificial teeth will be fixed. This material could be plastic or a metal /plastic combination. You cannot compare your needs with a member of your family or a friend.

If one tooth comes off an existing denture or a tooth needs extracting and adding to a denture or a denture is broken we may be able to repair this within 1-3 working days. However, no repair will be as strong or identical as a newly made denture.

What will the Oak Dental do?

The process of making dentures will usually require 4 visits to the practice over 4-5 weeks.

- First impression (mould) of patient's teeth
- Second impression (mould) in a specially made tray and bite registration to make the fit of the dentures more accurate.
- Try-in of the artificial teeth in your mouth and any adjustments can be done at that stage (please note we often have an additional re-try appointment as it can be difficult to get the correct bite at the first attempt.
- Fitting of the dentures and make minor adjustments over a period of time.

What are the problems with dentures?

- As the dentures are designed to be removable they will often feel like foreign bodies in your mouth to begin with.
- They will never be completely fixed but with time and patience you will get used to them. Think of it like getting used to new pair of shoes, don't give up!
- Patients have to return to the dentist for minor adjustments if they rub and cause ulcers or are too loose or tight. This is normal.
- Dentures may make you gag, they can feel very large in your mouth.
- Speech can be interfered with to start with but your tongue will adjust over time.

What does the patient do?

As dentures are removable appliances they have to be taken out to be cleaned and this should be done several times a day. Do not use toothpaste to clean the denture because toothpaste will scratch the plastic of the denture. Dentures should be left out at night so the gums can rest.

If you already have dentures and want to replace them, you should be aware that no dentures are identical. If you have had a missing tooth for a period of time, your denture tooth will be lower than the ones next to it because the upper tooth will have grown over time. The new ones may feel uncomfortable compared to the old ones but this will be because you are so used to the old ones and know exactly how to use your lip, tongue or cheeks to make them stable in your mouth. With new dentures it will take time and patience to reach the same stage. Persevere!

Some patients may need extra support for dentures to stay in place, for instance, if you have little remaining bone left in your jaws. In that case, a denture 'glue' may be used, these can be purchased over the counter at a chemist.

We will not remake dentures or make radical adjustments to them until and unless patients make the necessary effort to get used to them first.

We go the extra mile, to make you smile