

ADG Treatment Guide - Consent to fit an Immediate Denture

What is an immediate denture?

When a tooth or teeth need to be extracted a decision is sometimes made to manufacture a denture to replace the missing teeth at the tooth extraction appointment. The denture is then placed over the extraction socket/s. This is as opposed to a traditional denture which is fabricated after the extraction socket/s has healed.



When an immediate denture is prescribed, the dentist takes the relevant impressions (tooth moulds) and tooth shade before the date of your extraction. The dental technician then extracts the relevant tooth/teeth from the master model and then guesses the shape of the gum. The denture fitting surface is therefore improvised. This can be a very useful way to make a denture however there are limitations to these dentures which are described below.

An immediate denture is prescribed when:

- One or more front teeth need to be removed. This means that you do not have to walk out of the surgery without front teeth
- When multiple posterior teeth are to be removed. This means that we can give you a bite and cover large extraction sockets and missing teeth as soon as they have been removed. This will minimise food and debris collecting in the extraction sockets

Benefits of immediate dentures

Immediate dentures allow immediate replacement of teeth after extractions without having to wait a period of time for gum healing. This may be critical for appearance, and the denture can help with eating, swallowing and speech. This will restore your self-esteem and limit the need to walk around without teeth.

If front teeth are removed chewing, incision and speech are compromised. Although speech and chewing need to be “re-learned” on the immediate dentures, they can provide a reasonable functional outcome. Please bear in mind that there will be some movement with the dentures, so a denture fixative may be necessary to maintain stability.

Limitations of immediate dentures

There are many shortcomings with immediate dentures. The greater the number of teeth you need to have removed the more the gums will shrink and change shape. As explained before, the fitting surface shape is improvised by the technician. There will be a greater error in the guess work of fabricating an immediate denture with multiple teeth removed. The gums may shrink to such an extent that you will need a reline or a replacement of the denture after 2 months. This is charged for separately. Due to the gum shrinkage, the denture will gradually sink. This will affect appearance, and you may need adjustment of sharp edges of the denture.

Patients who receive a clearance of multiple teeth will always need a reline or a remake of the denture.

Please be mindful that due to the changing status of the gums, the dentures will become ill-fitting and this may eventually compromise speech and chewing. You will definitely need a new denture in time.

How to use your immediate dentures

For many patients, immediate dentures are a life-line for their personal self-esteem, and immediate function. Please ensure that you remove the denture several times a day and brush the fitting surface with a toothbrush and tooth paste as foodstuff will become impacted in your extraction sockets and on your denture.

You may keep your immediate dentures in place for 24 hours after you have received extractions to stabilise the blood clot and guide healing of the gums. After 24 hours however it is essential that you carefully remove the denture, and start washing out with warm salt water rinses. This will be an ideal opportunity to brush the dentures with a tooth brush and tooth paste. This process needs to continue until the sockets are covered by gum after initial healing. The dentures can continue to be cleaned with a tooth brush, and tooth paste to maintain hygiene.

If you have any further questions o immediate dentures, please do ask your dental surgeon. Otherwise please click the following link to review the benefits and limitations of providing an immediate replacement denture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7u3LmhnUp4>

I confirm that I have read and understood the information contained within this guide, and I have had the opportunity to ask questions. I feel that I understand the risks, benefits and limitations of the procedures described, and I understand that no promises or guarantees of the proposed outcome can be made. By signing this form, I am providing my explicit consent to render necessary treatment to assist my dental condition.

Name of Patient _____

Date of Birth _____

Patient signature _____ Dated _____

Parent/Guardian/
Legal Representative _____ Dated _____