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Dentures: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You (1978)

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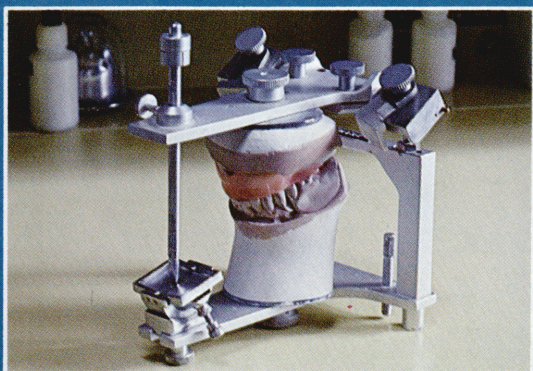
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DENTURES:



**WHAT YOU
DON'T KNOW
CAN HURT
YOU.**

YOUR MOUTH

affects your entire life. Good nutrition, clear speech, and a pleasant appearance are important to your physical and mental well-being. They depend on healthy teeth and gums. ■ Your dentist's goal is to help you keep your teeth and gums healthy all your life. Even if you should lose your natural teeth, your mouth will still need regular professional care. ■ If you wear dentures, your dentist is the **only one** qualified to provide denture services. ■

A DENTIST'S PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING DENTURE SERVICES:

1. REVIEW OF YOUR HEALTH HISTORY before prescribing a treatment plan.

2. THOROUGH EXAMINATION, both visually and with X-rays. Problems are not always readily seen. Cysts, tumors, inflammation, loss of bone, "buried" teeth or roots, and improper jaw position can all cause future denture problems. Your mouth must be healthy to wear dentures comfortably.

3. CORRECTION OF ORAL PROBLEMS. Only your dentist can determine if any teeth can be saved to support a denture or if they must be removed.

4. PREPARATION of detailed impressions of your mouth.

5. MEASUREMENT of the alignment and space between your jaws (your "bite" relationship). The slightest error can make the final denture not fit or work smoothly. The muscles can pull incorrectly and cause loss of the bony support.

6. EXAMINATION and adjustment of the completed dentures in your mouth.

7. FOLLOW UP EXAMINATION of your mouth. Immediate and future visits are necessary to make sure that your mouth stays healthy and attractive, and that your dentures are comfortable and working properly.

8. COUNSELING. Early stages of denture wear are crucial. You will need to **learn** to speak and eat with your new dentures. The dentist knows the common physical and mental adjustments that are needed and can help.

ORAL CARE DOESN'T STOP WITH COMPLETE DENTURES.

Your body changes. The changing shape of gums and bone will slowly affect the way your dentures work in your mouth. Your dentist needs to check your mouth and your dentures at least once a year.

— Poorly fitting dentures can harm your mouth. Constant irritation over a long period may contribute to the development of sores or tumors.

— As your mouth changes, adjustments for loose or uncomfortable dentures will be needed. Don't adjust or repair them yourself! Improper repair or home relining can cause you serious harm. See your dentist for **any** problems with your denture.

— If your mouth changes a great deal, new dentures often must be designed.

Don't neglect your mouth. Have a yearly check-up by your dentist. Your oral health and your general well-being depend on each other. Protect them both.





ALL DENTURE SERVICES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DENTIST (DDS or DMD).

Professional training enables a dentist to evaluate your total oral health and its relationship to your general health. In addition to a broad medical background, every dentist studies oral anatomy, facial structure, general and oral pathology, psychology, and dental materials. All of their experience is used to provide you with denture services.

Most dentists work with auxiliary personnel who help in the actual construction of dentures. These dental laboratory technicians have learned their mechanical skills through on-the-job training or in one-or two-year technical programs. By law, technicians are not permitted to treat patients, since their training, formal or informal, does not prepare them to diagnose or prescribe. They must follow the dentist's written instructions (the "laboratory procedure order") exactly.



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