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**Immediate
Dentures**

5 B:2
1971

Proper Care

With proper care most persons can keep their teeth for their lifetime. This is the reason that so much emphasis is placed on home and professional dental care for children and young adults. Forming good dental health habits early helps assure good dental health.

But teeth are lost, as a result of disease or accident. While artificial dentures can never be as efficient as one's own healthy natural teeth, it now is possible to make dentures that are attractive and function adequately. Whether the patient succeeds or fails in wearing artificial dentures often depends on his determination to learn to use the dentures or his subconscious refusal to accept the situation.



BEFORE



Replacing diseased and unsightly teeth with immediate dentures improves the individual's health and appearance

AFTER

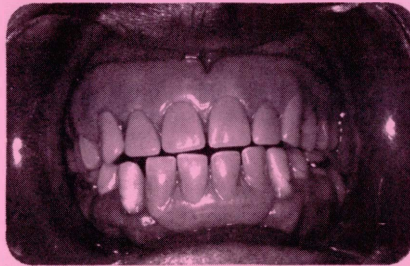


BEFORE



Front teeth often protrude as a result of the loss of some of the back teeth. Immediate dentures improve health, function and appearance

AFTER



Your Dentist has told you

that you need artificial dentures. He also has told you that you can have *immediate dentures* or you can wait until all the tissues have healed before having your dentures made.

Many persons now prefer to have immediate dentures. This means that the artificial teeth are made before all of the natural teeth are removed. Usually the back teeth are extracted, and the tissues are given time to heal. Then the dentures are inserted immediately after the front teeth are removed.

Advantages

From the point of view of the patient, perhaps the most important advantage of immediate dentures is that he need never appear in public without teeth. However, there also are other advantages of this procedure.

1. The form, size and arrangement of the natural teeth can more *easily be reproduced* when some of the teeth still remain in the mouth and their duplication is desired.
2. If a person has dentures inserted immediately after his remaining teeth are extracted, often his associates and even members of his family *need not know* that his natural teeth have been removed.
3. When immediate dentures are inserted, they *act as a bandage* and help to *reduce bleeding*.
4. Immediate dentures *protect* the tissues *from* irritation which might result from material entering the mouth as well as from the tongue. This means less discomfort for the patient.
5. Insertion of immediate dentures results in *more even healing*.



6. Although the patient with new dentures must take great care in chewing, he can *chew better with dentures* than he could without them.

7. Immediate dentures enable the patient to *speak more clearly*. Also he does not have to learn how to speak without teeth and then with dentures. Hence *less adjustment* in speaking is necessary.

8. If dentures do *not replace* the natural teeth within a short time, the *cheeks fall in*. Immediate dentures help to *minimize distortion* of the facial outline.

9. The patient with immediate dentures usually learns how to use them in a short period. If he remains toothless for some time, he may develop habits that will create difficulties when he tries to learn how to use his dentures.

10. With immediate dentures the *tissues remain more resilient*, so that there is a *better foundation* for dentures. If a person does not wear dentures for some time, his mouth tissues tend to lose their resiliency.

Disadvantages

Like any other procedure, the insertion of immediate dentures does have some disadvantages. For most persons the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, but patients should be aware of both.

1. *More office visits are required* because, during the first few months, the dentist wants to watch for changes in the gums and in the patient's occlusion. (Occlusion means the way in which the upper and lower teeth come together.)
2. Immediate dentures are slightly *more expensive* because of the additional time required for their construction.
3. Because some of the natural teeth are still in place, the dentist cannot try the dentures in the patient's mouth before they are processed. Thus the patient *does not see how the dentures look* in his mouth *until* they are *completed*.
4. In the areas from which the last teeth have been removed, immediate dentures *do not always fit quite so accurately as would dentures made at a later date*.
5. Because of the changes in the tissues following removal of the teeth, immediate dentures usually *need to be refitted by a dentist within a few months*. *In some cases new dentures must be made*.

There are some persons for whom immediate dentures are not advisable. This is because of certain conditions in their mouths or because they are suffering from some organic disease. The dentist is the best judge of whether a patient should have immediate dentures.

Once immediate dentures have been inserted, they should not be removed, except for cleaning, for whatever period of time the dentist advises. Usually the dentist asks the patient to return in 24 or 48 hours so that any necessary adjustments can be made.

Care of Dentures

It is most important for the health of the mouth that dentures be kept clean. Brushes made especially for artificial dentures are available at drug stores. The bristles of the brushes are arranged to facilitate cleaning. Care should be taken not to brush so vigorously as to scratch the dentures.

Dentures should be brushed with soap and water, baking soda, a preparation made especially for dentures or a combination of these. They should be well rinsed in running water. The mouth should be rinsed thoroughly when one gets up in the morning, after each meal and before one goes to bed.

It is a good idea to fill the washbowl from one-third to one-half full of water and brush the teeth near the surface of the water. Then, should the denture slip from the hand, the water will act as a cushion and prevent damage.

Dentures should not be placed in or have hot water poured over them to sterilize them. Dentures should not be allowed to become dry since they may warp.

Need for Check-Ups

Tartar collects on artificial as well as on natural teeth. Periodic visits to the dentist for cleaning and polishing the dentures are as important as is such care of natural teeth.

All denture patients should have checkups as often as their dentist recommends. There are continuing changes in the bones and soft tissues of the mouth. This is why almost all dentures must be refitted or replaced eventually. Only a dentist can determine what needs to be done and when.

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