

Immediate Dentures

Immediate dentures are those that are inserted directly after you have had teeth. They allow for the replacement of hopeless teeth without a period where you would be “tooth-less”

What are Immediate Dentures?

Immediate dentures are dentures that are put in ‘immediately’ after having a tooth extraction. This could be to replace any number of teeth.

It may be that the prognosis is very poor for all your remaining teeth (as commonly happens with severe gum disease), in which case an 'immediate complete denture' or dentures (top and bottom) may be made. On the other hand, an 'immediate partial denture' could also be made as a temporary solution to allow the gums to heal up before you consider other treatment, if you require a single front tooth extracted. Or any combination in-between these two extremes.

After a tooth extraction your gums will heal and shrink as the bone in that area is no longer needed to support your tooth. Most changes occur during the first three months when one or more denture relines will often be needed and by 12 months your bone level should be pretty stable.

The amount of shrinkage and healing time will vary slightly from one person to another.



Before



After

What are the Advantages of Immediate Dentures?

Immediate Dentures have a number of advantages:

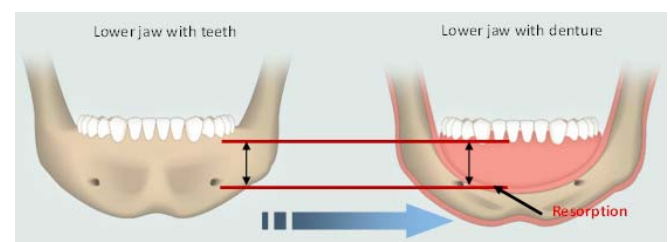
- **No gap / missing teeth** - You don't have to walk around without teeth or with a gap in your smile
- **Better healing** - It promotes better healing by stabilising the clot underneath
- **Improved chewing** - It allows you to continue to chew and function normally
- **Improved speech** - It stops your speech being affected from having a space

What are the Disadvantages of Immediate Dentures?

Since it is a denture, all the disadvantages of standard dentures could apply here, such as it will need to be taken in and out to be cleaned, biting and speech may be affected to begin with etc. Bear in mind, immediate dentures are a working progress/temporary solution whilst healing occurs and further adjustments are part of the game - there is no way of avoiding them with the changes that occur to your jawbone.

If you are having an immediate denture, i.e. your teeth are removed and the denture put straight in, you do not have the luxury of a try-in stage, to check if everything fits perfectly. There is quite a lot of guesswork involved here, due to the 'straight-in' procedure. With a single tooth this generally isn't too much of a problem, but with a full denture where the extension of the base is so crucial to your grip, a poor fit may result.

The fit of an immediate dentures will be initially very loose. This looseness will progressively become worse as the gums shrink as they heal and frequent adjustments and the use of denture adhesive (e.g. Polident) may be needed in-between temporary relines. Following 12 months of healing, a laboratory reline or ideally a new denture will need to be constructed to compensate for the poor fit. The cost of a laboratory reline or new denture is an additional expense to the immediate denture.



What are the Alternatives for an Immediate Denture?

Extraction of All Teeth

For a complete denture, extraction of all the teeth prior to denture construction will ensure a much better fit. Unfortunately a period of 6 months is required to ensure that the gums have healed and shrunk a reasonable amount. As this is a long time to go without any teeth, rarely is this option taken by patients.

Single or a Few Teeth Missing

A gap can be left for a short period of time before the adjacent teeth drift or tilt. This should not be left more than 6 months.

If you already have a partial denture, you can have an immediate tooth addition- this is like a tooth addition, but the 'immediate' bit means that you are never without a space. This really only needs to be done for front teeth which affect your smile, otherwise it makes more sense to take the tooth out, let it heal a bit, then add a tooth to the denture- removing the guesswork.

Your denture will need to be sent away to the lab for an immediate addition, so you will be without it for a period of time (typically 3 days). It is important to bear this in mind when organising work and social commitments.

What is the Procedure for an Immediate Denture?

The exact process and number of appointments depends on how many teeth the denture will be replacing:

Appointment 1 - Primary impressions

Initial set of impressions are taken

Appointment 2 - Secondary impressions

More accurate impressions are taken to fabricate the model on which the immediate denture will be made

Appointment 3 - Bite recording

Recording how your top and bottom jaws come together and choosing a shade and mould of teeth

Appointment 4 - Try in

Trying in a wax mockup of the denture. This stage is not always possible and depends on the number of teeth remaining

Appointment 5 - Extraction of tooth/teeth and insert of denture

Sutures may be required if many teeth are removed. The dentures are to be left in the mouth for 24 hours to reduce swelling and bleeding

1-2 day review

No cost as inclusive with immediate denture

3-6 month temporary relines

No cost as inclusive with immediate denture

12 month permanent relines or ideally new denture

Required as gums have significantly changed shape after 1 year. Cost of permanent relines or new denture is not included as part of the immediate denture quote.