



## DENTURES

At The Practice we pride ourselves on ensuring our patients are well informed on their dental health and treatment options. This information sheet is aimed to give you general information and risks involved with procedures. Your dentist will be able to identify your specific risks and benefits. As always our providers will endeavour to manage any undesired outcomes for you and perform procedures with the highest level of safety and care for you.

### WHAT ARE DENTURES?

A denture is a removable, custom-made appliance to replace missing teeth. Dentures are made out of plastic and/or metal; your dentist will discuss options with you on which is best suited for your mouth. Dentures can replace either all of your teeth, or just a few. Respectively, these dentures are called **full** and **partial** dentures. Often partial dentures will have wire clasps to help keep them stable. Full dentures rely on the gums and suction to keep them in place.

### AM I A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR DENTURES?

Dentures are not always a good option; it is important to remember dentures will not feel the same or work in the same way in which natural teeth do. Your dentist will have documented a careful assessment of both you and your mouth, and discuss other options to replace missing teeth that may also work for you.

### HOW ARE DENTURES MADE?

Your Dentist will need to take an initial impression or scan of your teeth and record the way that your jaws meet together. Working in conjunction with an external lab, a trial denture will be made so your Dentist can check the fit, bite and appearance of the denture. The trial denture will then be used to construct your final denture. This process can take multiple visits to ensure the best result for you.

The trial wax denture allows you to have the opportunity to have input in the way the denture looks and works. It is important that you tell your Dentist if you would like any changes before the plastic and/or metal denture is made. Denture construction can take time depending on the complexity of the denture. Your dentist is able to provide you with the appointment structure in conjunction with the external lab.

### WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AFTER TREATMENT?

It is important to understand that dentures are not the same as natural teeth. It may take some time to adapt to them. You will not be able to eat the same way with dentures as with natural teeth. Your speech may also be altered although temporary and with practice it will normally return to normal once your lips and tongue adapt to the new appliance in your mouth. Your appearance can also change such as how “full” your mouth looks. This is often beneficial and can open up your face to restore lost face height, but this is monitored during your try in stages and discussed if you find this a favourable outcome.

It is common to feel tender and bruised while getting used to your new denture. Ulcers are common in the initial stages and people will often need adjustment appointments to ease the denture in, so follow up with your Dentist is important for success.

### ARE THERE ANY RISKS TO THE PROCEDURE?

As dentures are removable, there are no significant risks. However, some people are never able to adapt to wearing dentures. Luckily, this is very rare.

There are some issues which can arise:

- Dentures are not fixed to your mouth and can move when you are eating.
- If you have very thin gums or have lost a lot of bone from your jaws, there may be insufficient tissue to support the dentures.

- Some people find that dentures make them gag, and that their muscles are not able to adapt to the denture being in place.
- If you have a very dry mouth, you may find that it is difficult to get sufficient suction to keep your full dentures in place. However, there are products which can help with this.
- Partial dentures often use your natural teeth as 'anchors'. This can make the natural teeth tender and the gum can at times recede off the natural teeth. If you look after your teeth and denture carefully, you can minimise the risk.
- Dentures can break. This can happen by eating hard foods or by dropping your denture. You should consider your dentures as an alternative to natural teeth and have them checked on regularly so that any changes that occur in your mouth, which could damage the denture are picked up quickly.
- Dentures may become loose as the supporting gums change shape. Your dentist can put a lining inside the teeth in some cases. There are additional fees for denture relining

I, \_\_\_\_\_ consent to the provision of:

Full dentures

Partial dentures

I understand that my dentist \_\_\_\_\_ has given me a copy of the information sheet on dentures and have read (or had read to me) the contents including the benefits, risks, limitation and inconveniences.

I am aware of the general risks of treatment as listed in the information sheet. I have also been informed of the specific risks to me, these include:

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I have had the opportunity to ask my dentist questions and discuss my concerns. I understand the expected outcomes. My dentist has discussed other treatment options and I have received a quote for the estimated cost and signed a treatment plan for my treatment.

I consent to the taking of photographs, study models, and x-rays (before, during and after treatment) to assist in the planning and to progress objectives (if required).

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dentist Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_