



PATIENT INFORMATION REGARDING IMMEDIATE DENTURES

Immediate dentures are so-called because they are delivered at the same appointment as any remaining teeth are extracted. Through a series of appointments, the dentures are planned and then fabricated by a laboratory.

When an immediate denture is delivered, it must be worn until the next day's appointment. (If the denture is removed prior to the next day's appointment, it's possible for the gums to swell enough from the inflammation caused by extraction of teeth to prevent the ability to insert the denture for several days!) At the "24-hour appointment," the denture will be removed, cleaned and checked for the need for adjustment. If the patient has any soreness after this initial adjustment visit, we will schedule an adjustment appointment the day the patient calls. After adjustments, at least 24 hours must be allowed for the initial soreness to subside (in order to be able to tell whether the sore spot needs more adjustment).

After the initial adjustment, the denture must be NOT worn while sleeping, in order to give the gums time to "breathe." Gums do not do well when they're covered by a denture all of the time. A painless fungus infection is likely to develop, and the patient's bone is lost more quickly, when the denture is worn all of the time.

Once teeth are extracted, the bone that used to surround the teeth shrinks (or "resorbs"); therefore, the gums over that bone also shrink. This bone continues to resorb for the lifetime of the patient (as long as implants aren't placed to preserve the bone). The denture doesn't change shape on its own, but the bone/gums do; therefore, the denture will not fit as well, as time passes. The fastest bone resorption occurs within the first 6-8 weeks after extraction, and the denture will become more "loose." At approximately 2-3 weeks after the extractions and denture delivery, a temporary "soft liner" can be placed (if needed) inside the denture, to allow the gums to continue to heal and give more retention of the denture.

At 6-8 weeks after the extractions, either a rebase ("refitting") of the existing denture will be done, or a new denture fabrication process will be started, depending on what the patient desires. If a rebasing of the denture is to be done, an appointment in the early morning is necessary, as the laboratory needs that much time for the rebase procedure. The denture will be delivered at the end of the workday.

Patient's Name (Printed)

Date

Patient's Signature

Witness