



Norwalk Dental Arts, P.C.

Aesthetic
Diagnostic
Implants
Preventive
Restorative
TMJ Therapy

Prosthodontist

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Information Regarding Immediate Dentures

What is an immediate denture?

An immediate denture is a complete denture or partial denture inserted on the same day following the removal of natural teeth.

What are the advantages of an immediate denture?

The most important advantage of an immediate denture is you will never need to appear in public without teeth. It is also easier to duplicate the shape, color and arrangement of your natural teeth while some are still present in your mouth. When an immediate denture is inserted at the time of extraction, it will act as a Band-Aid to protect the tissues and reduce swelling. An immediate denture will allow you to establish your speech patterns early. You will not have to learn to speak without a denture in place and then later relearn to speak with a new denture. An immediate denture will also allow you to chew better than without any teeth and minimize facial distortion that may occur when teeth are removed.

What are the disadvantages of an immediate denture?

The biggest disadvantage of an immediate denture is the inability to try it in prior to having the teeth extracted. What this means is we don't have the ability to see how you speak, laugh, smile, or chew. In addition, immediate dentures never fit as accurately as conventional dentures do because you still have to undergo the 8 – 12 weeks of healing while the gingival tissues and extraction sites completely heal. An immediate denture is in essence an "educated guess" as to where your final tissues will end up after healing is complete. Immediate dentures will preclude the necessity for at least replacing all the pink acrylic after healing. This is called a "rebase" and will require the immediate denture to be in the lab for 72 hours. If, for whatever reason, you don't like the final result after healing is complete, a new conventional denture will need to be fabricated.

Why does an immediate denture cost more?

An immediate denture is initially more expensive than a conventional denture because additional time is needed for fabrication. A surgical stent, (a guide for recontouring tissues after extraction) is often necessary and

more follow-up visits are needed for adjustments and refitting. A soft temporary reliner material will be utilized for refitting the denture when it becomes loose during the healing phase of treatment. This liner material

is usually replaced once a week for the first 4 weeks and then every 2nd or 3rd week for the next 8 weeks until healing is complete. After the soft tissues have healed and shrinkage of the underlying bone has occurred (about six months after extractions), the immediate denture must be finalized by a permanent replacement of the pink acrylic (called a “rebase”), or a new denture will need to be fabricated. At this time, you will be charged for either a “rebase” of your existing immediate denture or a new denture, depending on your choice.

A major advantage to making a new denture is that the immediate denture can be used as a spare if the new denture breaks, is misplaced, or has to be repaired or rebased in our laboratory. If the immediate denture is “rebased” the denture will need 72 hours of processing time in our laboratory.

How long does it take to complete?

Four to six visits may be necessary for the fabrication phase of an immediate denture. The number of oral surgery visits is not included in this estimate. For patients requiring a complete immediate denture, the back teeth are often extracted 6 – 8 weeks prior to the fabrication phase of treatment. This allows the extraction sites to heal and a better fitting immediate complete denture to be fabricated.

The fabrication phase consists of photographs, initial impressions, final impressions, jaw relation records, tooth shape and color selection and wax try in of the posterior teeth.

On the day of delivery, you will be seen by an oral surgeon for extraction of the appropriate teeth, followed immediately by the insertion of the immediate denture. I will also see you that day to evaluate the “bite” and make any necessary corrections. You are instructed to sleep with the immediate denture in place that night to help control the possible swelling. I will remove the immediate denture the next day at the 24 hour post-surgical visit and begin the healing phase of therapy with your first reliner.

