

## **DENTURES, PLACED IMMEDIATELY AFTER TOOTH EXTRACTION**

You have just had an immediate denture placed in your mouth. The following information will assist you to understand the sequence of events during the healing period:

- Teeth have been removed from your mouth. Stitches may have been placed to help the mouth heal. If so, they will dissolve by themselves over several days, unless we tell you differently.
- Dentures have been placed to replace your missing teeth and gum tissue. Initially, these dentures will feel large and bulky until your gums have healed and shrunk slightly, at which time we will make the dentures thinner and less bulky. The dentures may cause your speech to be altered for a few days, but this feeling will disappear soon.
- Do not take the dentures out of your mouth today. We will remove them tomorrow. The new dentures serve as a bandage similar to a cast on a broken arm during initial healing. After the initial denture removal and adjustment by us, you should remove the dentures frequently for cleaning.
- Some discomfort is usually present when teeth are removed and immediate dentures are placed. The discomfort is due to one or two reasons:
  - a. The trauma of removing teeth. Within a few days the discomfort will go away.
  - b. The denture may have pressure spots that become sore. If so, the pressure spots will be observed and removed by us as soon as you tell us about the discomfort. They will not go away by themselves.
- If you have been given antibiotics, it is important to continue with the therapy until all of the tablets have been taken.
- Use the pain relieving pills while you are experiencing discomfort.
- Your immediate dentures have been relined today with a soft material that makes them easier to wear and speeds healing. That material may be replaced during the initial healing period of 6 weeks or more. It is not the final denture material. Be careful not to dislodge this soft material when cleaning.
- As soon as convenient, place ice cubes in a plastic bag and place the bag externally on the areas of your face where the teeth were removed. The cooling effect of the ice will reduce swelling and bruising. However, some swelling and bruising may still occur for a short time.
- After 6 weeks (minimum) your denture will be relined to refine its fit to adapt to the healing supporting tissues. At this time the denture will appear, fit, and function as intended.
- The majority of the healing from tooth extractions continues for up to 18 months. Shrinkage of gums and bone is obvious during that time, but it slows thereafter. You may elect to have a second reline of the denture about 18 months after the initial surgery.
- After healing, denture cleaners are useful to remove debris from the denture. Brush your gums with a regular toothbrush once per day to toughen and clean them. You may leave the dentures in or out of your mouth at night, depending on your preference. If they are out of your mouth, leave them soaking in water to avoid dehydration and shrinkage.
- Immediate dentures are a major change for your body. Don't worry if you are somewhat slow to adapt to them. Millions of others have been through this experience. We expect your denture to serve well for many years after an initial period of adapting to it.