

CANANDAIGUA ORAL SURGERY, PC

500 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424 585.394.3322



IMMEDIATE DENTURES INFORMATION / POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS

Immediate dentures are dentures that are placed into the patient's mouth at the time the remaining teeth are removed. This method is usually chosen when the patient is unable or unwilling to allow for complete healing of the mouth prior to making dentures. The primary benefit to the patient is cosmetic. The disadvantages are generally due to the inexact fit the denture may have. Your dentist and the laboratory technicians have to make an estimate of what the ridge form will be like after removing teeth when processing the denture. This estimate can be made more difficult when the number of teeth removed increases and when there is the need for additional surgery affecting jaw ridge form (i.e. removal of impacted teeth, ridge contouring, relocation of muscle attachments). These disadvantages include the possibility of increased postoperative pain, the need for denture adjustments throughout the healing course, the need for bite adjustments, the need for denture relining procedures, and the possibility of having to remake the denture when healing is complete. Dr. Cary and our entire staff will do everything we can to make the surgical procedure as comfortable and safe as possible. Your general dentist will make all denture adjustments and evaluations.

General Information

Your denture will be placed at the time of surgery and should be left in your mouth if possible for the first twenty-four (24) hours. One will need to remove the denture if bleeding cannot be adequately controlled or in the event that pain is severe and felt to be due to extreme "tightness" of the denture. You can expect the denture to feel foreign or unusual to you initially. This will require some time for most patients to accommodate to. You may also note that the denture is somewhat unstable or that the bite is not even. These types of problems are due to the less precise nature of making immediate dentures, and are usually mild and will be corrected when denture adjustments are made. You may also notice that your speech is a bit different initially. This will adjust very quickly in almost all cases to your normal speech pattern.

Diet

You will be limited to liquids and soft foods for a period of time while healing takes place. The length of time varies with the type of surgery the patient has done. You should let your level of comfort guide your decisions on the consistency of foods. Eating will seem a bit awkward at first. Do not become frustrated, as this is common and is generally very easily overcome by the patient in time.

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Bleeding

Bleeding is generally stopped by placing biting pressure on the denture. This compresses the bleeding sites and will allow for clotting. If bleeding is difficult to stop, the patient will need to remove the denture, inspect the mouth for the source of the bleeding, and insert gauze packs over the sources and bite directly with moderate pressure for 30 minute intervals. Once bleeding has stopped, the denture should be gently reinserted if possible. If the denture is left out over the night the patient may not be able to replace it easily the next day due to swelling in the gum tissues.

Pain Management

You will be given a prescription for an appropriate pain medication or a suggestion will be made regarding a non-prescription pain medication. Pain is generally best treated on a preventive basis initially, so you will be advised to take a pain medication prior to the feeling of numbness passing. If your pain is severe, and you believe it to be strongly influenced by the "tightness" of your denture, you should remove the denture. If this is the case you will likely not be able to replace the denture and will need to either see your dentist as soon as possible for adjustments or possible wait for a period of time for swelling to resolve and some healing take place.

Oral Hygiene

Good oral hygiene is essential for good healing. You should rinse your mouth with salt water (1/2 teaspoon salt in 8 Oz. water) frequently in the first five post-op days. Your rinsing should only begin once bleeding has been stopped for a period of at least four hours. Be gentle. Keep your denture in the first day when rinsing, then remove it for rinsing from the second day on. Make sure you have cleaned your denture well prior to replacing it in your mouth. If you have any remaining natural teeth, they should be brushed as usual. Avoid all alcohol containing mouth rinses for the first two weeks post-op.

Postoperative Evaluation

We may schedule you to return for a visit to evaluate healing in approximately one to two weeks. Any sutures placed will be removed at that time. Your general dentist will also need to see you to evaluate your denture for fit and function, and make any necessary adjustments. This will be arranged for you at the time of your surgery unless you have already made arrangements with your dentist. All denture adjustments should be made by your dentist.