



Dentures

A denture is a removable prosthesis which is custom made to replace one or more missing teeth. The intended benefits of the procedure include cosmetic and functional improvements for the mouth.

Expected complications

- Dentures are by definition a removable prosthesis and therefore do not work like natural teeth.
- They must be removed for cleaning and kept out of the mouth at night.
- Most people find that dentures can sometimes move or become dislodged.
- Requirement for adjustments, relining or remaking of the denture in the future.

Common risks and complications

- Dentures may rub on the gums and cause ulcers.
- Some dentures put additional stress on remaining teeth, fillings or crowns resulting in additional work being required in the future.
- Dentures can be broken or lost resulting in inconvenience whilst they are sent away being repaired or remade.

What can I expect it to be like?

When you leave the practice the new dentures will be in place. If at all possible it is best to leave dentures in place for 24 hours. It is better to start with a soft diet and learn to cope with your new teeth gradually.

What happens next?

We normally review patients a week after fitting. The initial adaptation process can take several weeks but if you have any continuing soreness, ulceration or undue difficulties please contact the practice. Most problems are easily corrected.

What are the alternatives?

- Place a Bridge
Bridges are a fixed option that can restore small to moderate gaps BUT they can fail and failures may damage the supporting teeth to a level that makes them unrestorable, making the gap wider. Also, there is a 1 in 10 chance that the nerve will die after a tooth is used for a bridge, in which case the tooth would require a root filling to save it.
- Implants
They restore a gap with a fixed option that does not damage/harm any other tooth **BUT**

it is the most expensive option. They are solely private and therefore not available on the NHS and require a referral to another practice. There are risks associated with implants which the dentist may briefly discuss with you but will be explained more by the implantologist (the person who places them)

Both of these options are dependent on other factors though including:

- size of the gap
- the health of the supporting teeth including their gum health (periodontal health)
- The current level of tooth brushing (oral hygiene)