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REMOVABLE PARTIAL & COMPLETE DENTURES

What Patients Should Know About Removable Partial and Complete Dentures.

Partial and complete removable dentures are unique prostheses that replace teeth, restore function, and improve the overall quality of life. They do require a getting used to period and need proper maintenance.

What to expect?

1. **Chewing:** Eating with a removable prosthesis is a learned experience and will require practice. Most people do adapt fairly well and can eat most foods normally. Some exceptions such as sticky or hard foods may not need to be avoided. A small amount of dental adhesive may be helpful to stabilize and secure the prosthesis while adapting.
2. **Speech:** The added volume may initially affect speech, but most accommodate within the first few weeks. Increased practice such as reading out loud can speed up the process.
3. **Increased saliva flow initially:** Your mouth may think the extra volume is food to chew initially and may produce more saliva for the first week or two. It will soon accommodate for the prosthesis and your salivary flow will return to normal.
4. **Loosening over time:** Your mouth will continue to change and over time the prosthesis may become loose. The space that develops may need to be filled in to create a better fit and restore function. This procedure is called a reline.

Care and Maintenance

It is recommended to remove your prosthesis and clean it daily with a brush and water. Mild cleansers such as hand soap or store bought denture cleaners are best, but toothpaste is too abrasive. Avoid straight bleach and boiling water as this will distort the prosthesis.

Please bring your prosthesis to your cleaning appointments for evaluation for fit and professional cleaning. Please notify your hygienist at the start of the appointment as it does take time to get it cleaned thoroughly.

Please be mindful about pets, as they have been known to chew up prosthesis left on nightstands.

If you feel sore spots, you experience bite changes, or have parts of the prosthesis break, notify our office and we will attempt to diagnose and treat it for you. Please refrain from making your own adjustments or fixes as this might make repairs difficult or impossible. Please know your comfort is our priority and we are here to help.

For more information please visit the Academy of Prosthodontics website at www.gotoapro.org.