

## Immediate Dentures

If your remaining teeth are passed repair, and Dr. Bridger has recommended full arch extractions, then you are a candidate for immediate dentures. After all your teeth are removed, you can wait until the extraction sites have healed before having dentures made or you can have **immediate dentures** inserted right away. Some patients may require an immediate denture in both the upper and the lower arch, while others will require this service for just one arch.

### What are the advantages of immediate dentures?

- You will not have to appear in public without teeth after the teeth are extracted.
- Immediate dentures protect the extraction sites, help control bleeding, and keep bits of food from entering the wounds which can cause irritation and inflammation.
- Immediate dentures can minimize changes in your appearance that can occur when your natural teeth are removed. Because the dentures provide continual support, the tongue, lips, and cheeks will not change position.
- Your transition to dentures is short. You will not have to learn to speak and chew without teeth and then relearn with dentures.

### What are the disadvantages of immediate dentures?

- The only major disadvantage to immediate dentures, is that Dr. Bridger and the patient may not have the luxury of a preliminary try-in visit to assess the cosmetics and the bite of the new dentures before the teeth are processed into hard acrylic.

### Before the extractions.

Your first visit will be for Dr. Bridger to take impressions and records of your mouth with your existing teeth in place. At this visit, the color and shape of your new denture teeth will be chosen. The dental laboratory will then proceed to fabricate your new dentures from these impressions.

### Who provides the extractions?

Dr. Bridger may recommend that you see an oral surgeon for your extractions and for the delivery immediately thereafter of your immediate dentures. Quite often Dr. Bridger will provide you with the extractions and the delivery of the dentures himself.

### The first 48 hours.

You will be encouraged to keep your immediate dentures in your mouth for the first 24 hours. If dentures are removed for any length of time, it is possible that swelling of the gum tissue would not allow comfortable repositioning of the dentures. After the first day, the dentures may be removed and you can rinse with salt water or a special mouth wash which we will provide for you called Pericide. Dr. Bridger will see you for an evaluation and adjustment visit on the third day at which time the first soft liner of your dentures may be necessary.

Some general instructions following extractions will also be provided for you.

**The next two weeks.**

As the extractions sites heal, your gum tissue will shrink. This can alter the fit of the dentures, requiring that the dentures be relined again with a soft liner. Unless you're having problems, Dr. Bridger will see you after 10 days or so for removal of any sutures and assessment for a possible soft reline.

**The next six months.**

Dr. Bridger will continue to see you as required for further relines and sore spot adjustments as your gum tissue continues to heal and shrink. During this time you will become more accustomed to wearing the denture(s). At the end of six months, Dr. Bridger will see you to provide you with a permanent hard reline of your denture bases. We will see you in the morning for an impression visit. The dental laboratory will then reline the denture(s) with a hard acrylic and return them for your afternoon visit on the same day. During the day you will unfortunately be without your dentures, but this is the only time when you should be so inconvenienced.

**Cost of immediate dentures.**

We will quote you a fee for you new denture. This fee covers all relines and adjustments required in the first six months as well as the permanent hard reline at the six-month period. It does not cover the fee for the extractions.

Insurance companies will cover based on the General Practitioner's fee guide. We will be happy to pre-authorize your insurance coverage prior to treatment so that you will know exactly what your percentage will be.

**Further information.**

Please ask for our brochure entitled "Your Dentures". You should also not hesitate to ask Dr. Bridger or his staff for answers to questions, which you might have. For those patients who struggle wearing dentures, there is always the possibility of replacing dentures with implant supported bridgework or implant supported dentures. We can provide you with literature on implant dentistry.