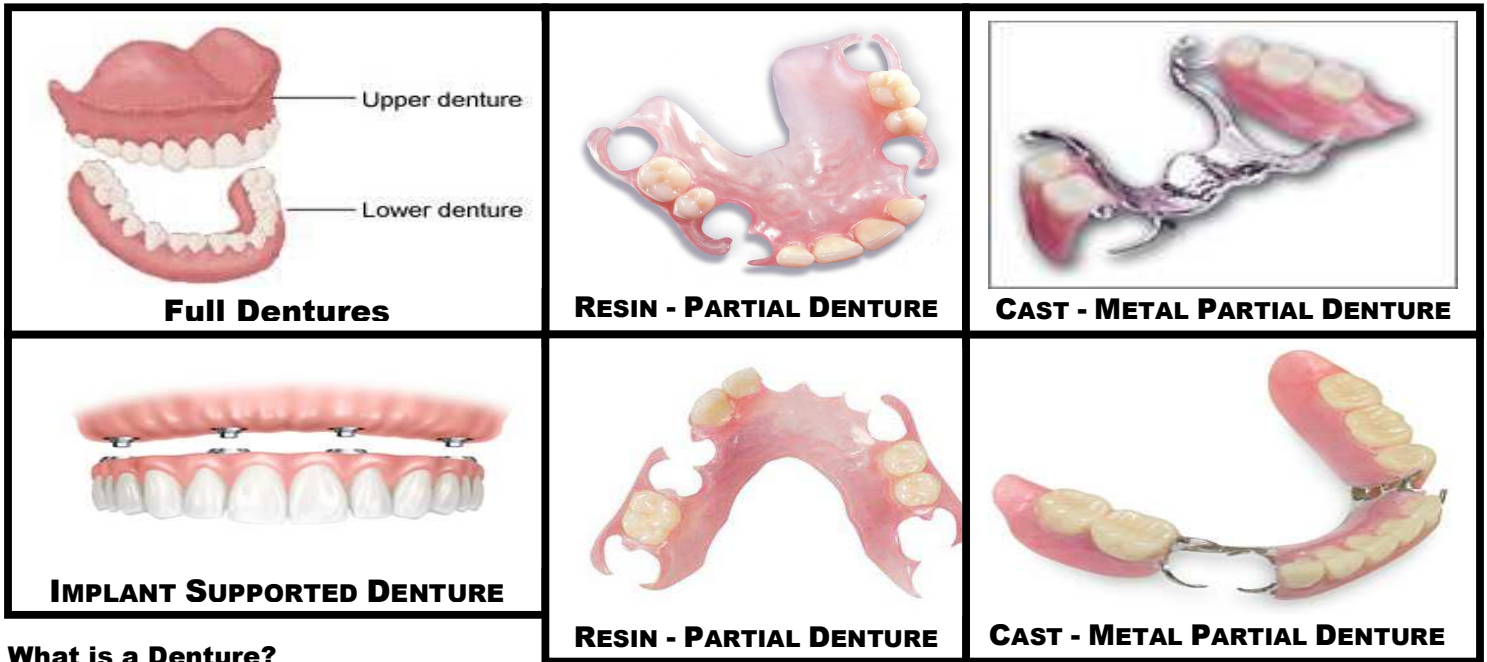


DENTURES -- PARTIAL and FULL

BLS



What is a Denture?

A denture is a removable replacement for missing teeth and adjacent tissues. It is made of acrylic resin sometimes in combination with various metals. When teeth are missing, the remaining ones can change position, drifting into the surrounding space. Teeth that are out of position can damage tissues in the mouth. In addition, it may be difficult to clean thoroughly between crooked teeth. As a result, you run the risk of tooth decay and periodontal (gum) disease, which can lead to the loss of additional teeth. *Please be aware that each denture is considered to be a separate procedure and each has its own service charge.*

What is the difference between the different types of Dentures:

Full dentures (complete or immediate) replace all the teeth and will be made over a 6 week period using a technique that involves two impression visits, one bite registration visit, one wax try-in visit, and then a denture delivery visit. A partial denture fills in the spaces created by missing teeth and prevents other teeth from changing position and will typically require one impression visit and then the denture delivery visit. An implant denture is made with connecting devices that will be clipped to a bar or a round ball anchor to specifically placed implants to which a denture snaps on and off from. An implant is considered a separate procedure and has its own service charge. Please remember that it is common for a denture to require two to three visits after delivery for minor adjustments.

What is the difference between Complete and Immediate Dentures:

Full dentures are either "complete" or "immediate." A complete denture is placed in the mouth about a month after all the teeth are removed to allow for proper healing, whereas an immediate denture is placed as soon as the teeth are removed. The drawback to an immediate denture is that it may require more adjustments after the healing has taken place. The bones and gums can shrink over time, especially during the period of healing in the first six months after the removal of teeth and may require rebasing or relining to fit properly.

Are dentures a substitute for natural teeth?

Please be aware that the chewing efficiency of dentures is typically about 20-25% of natural teeth. Often they must replace substantial amounts of lost or missing gum tissues and teeth. This added bulk may reduce the stability of the dentures. Dentures are supported by areas of the mouth that were not designed to carry the loads placed on them. It is highly recommended to spread the chewing force equally to both sides of your mouth and to use a slight biting force on the front portion of your mouth with a denture replacing front teeth to help prevent denture breakage. If the gums are not given an eight hour rest each day, they may dissolve more rapidly. This may require more frequent relines or adjustments. Just like teeth, dentures must be kept clean. Dentures that are not cleaned well may develop stains and/or a bad odor.

What will dentures feel like?

New dentures may feel awkward for a few weeks until you become accustomed to them. The dentures may feel loose while the muscles of your cheek and tongue learn to keep them in place. It is not unusual to experience minor irritation or soreness. You may find that saliva flow temporarily increases. As your mouth becomes accustomed to the dentures, these problems should diminish.

Will dentures change how I speak?

Pronouncing certain words may require practice. Reading out loud and repeating troublesome words will help. If your dentures "click" while you're talking, speak more slowly. You may find that your dentures occasionally slip when you laugh, cough or smile. Reposition the dentures by gently biting down and swallowing. If a speaking problem persists, consult your dentist.

Should I use a denture adhesive?

Denture adhesive can provide additional retention for well-fitting dentures. Denture adhesives are not the solution for old, ill-fitting dentures. A poorly fitting denture, which causes constant irritation over a long period, may contribute to the development of sores. These dentures may need a relin or need to be replaced. If your dentures begin to feel loose, or cause pronounced discomfort, consult your dentist.

Will my dentures ever need to be replaced?

Over time, dentures will need to be relined, rebased, or remade due to normal wear. Dentures may need to be replaced if they become loose and the teeth show signs of significant wear. Dentures become loose because a mouth naturally changes with age. Bone and gum ridges can recede or shrink, causing jaws to align differently. It's important to replace worn or poorly-fitting dentures before they cause problems.