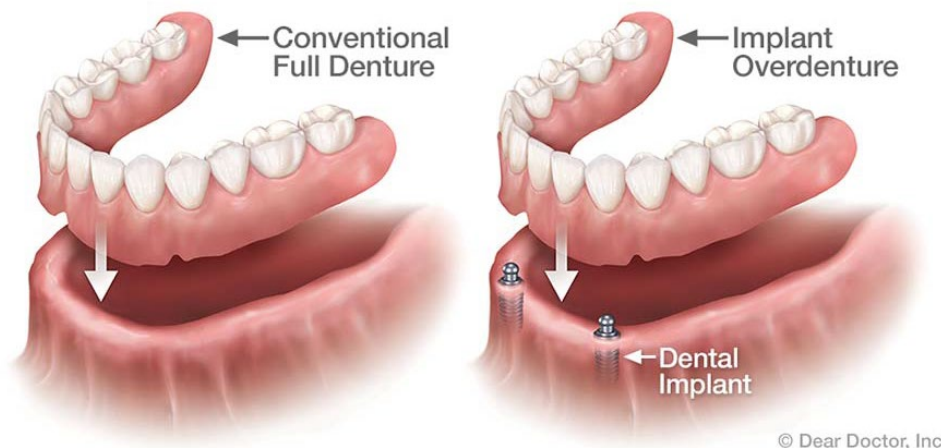




EXPLANATION OF IMMEDIATE DENTURES TO PERMANENT DENTURES

- Immediate dentures, also called “**healing dentures**”, are made before your remaining teeth are removed.
- The healing dentures are immediately placed in the mouth after the teeth are extracted, typically by the oral surgeon.
- They act like a bandage, protecting the surgical sites and help to control bleeding and manage swelling during the initial healing phase.
- These healing dentures are **not** designed to be a permanent solution. They are a **temporary measure** until you receive your “permanent” denture.
- A “**permanent denture**” can either be a traditional/conventional denture that rests on your gums or an overdenture which is a removable denture that “**snaps**” into implants.



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1) WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE INITIAL/HEALING PHASE:

- **Discomfort**, especially when worn over sensitive, fresh surgical sites. It will get **better with time** and this is **normal**.
- **Gums and bone will shrink as they heal**, causing the immediate dentures to become loose over several months.
- Frequent **adjustments**.
- **Speech** will be affected the first few days until you get used to talking with them.
- **Difficulty chewing**, especially during the first few weeks of the initial/healing phase. You may **lose weight**.

- The appearance and esthetics may seem less natural than the permanent dentures because immediate dentures are not truly customized dentures, especially when multiple teeth are extracted. It may pronounce an **existing overbite, overjet or underbite**.
- If you have **tori** (bony growth) on the palate or the floor of the mouth, it will create problems with the fit of the dentures. For this reason, we will recommend having that tori removed.
- If you have a **high frenum attachment** (fold of tissue that connects the inside of the lip to the gum in high position), we will also recommend to have this removed because it typically interferes with the fit of the denture.
- “Soft” temporary liners may be inserted in the temporary denture to assist with healing. This is called **tissue conditioning**.
- The initial/healing phases typically lasts **6 to 9 months**. It takes this amount of time for the gums and mouth to completely heal and stabilize.
- **Implants** placed for an overdenture typically require **4 to 6 months of healing and integration** into the bone before a denture can “snap” into them.

2) WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE PERMANENT PHASE:

Conventional/Traditional Denture

- After your mouth has fully healed, the immediate denture will be replaced with a permanent denture, which will have a much more accurate and comfortable fit.

Overdenture

- After your mouth has fully healed and the implants are fully integrated into the bone, the immediate denture will be replaced with an overdenture, which will have a better fit, comfort, chewing power, stability, and retention because it can now be **snapped** onto the implants.

3) WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE MAINTENANCE PHASE:

Traditional/Conventional Denture – Regular Oral Exams

- You will still need **regular oral exams** with us to check for signs of disease such as fungal infection (also called thrush), oral cancer or cancer of the head and neck. At this time, we will also check the fit of your denture.

Overdenture Maintenance – Hygiene Visits & Oral Exams

- **Hygiene visits** and **dental exams** are critical to the success and longevity of your overdenture. During these overdenture maintenance exams, we will clean and check the health of your implants and overdenture, including the integrity of your retention caps.
- Implants can get gum disease that can result in bone loss and early loss of implants. Implant components can get loose or break. It's important you see us on a regular basis to avoid complications.
- Due to normal wear and chewing, retention caps typically need to be replaced on a routine basis (3-6 months). You will notice changing the retention caps will help with the “snap” of the overdenture.



The typical lifetime of dentures is about 5 to 10 years, but this can vary widely depending on the patient. Your gum line and dental ridge will continue to change in shape and shrink, even if you wear dentures. Over time, a denture may need relining, rebasing or replacing.

- **Relining** is when your dentist adds new material to the underside of the denture base to fit your gums.
- **Rebasing** is when a new base is made using your existing denture as a model. The artificial teeth from the old denture are used on the new base.

It's important to replace worn or ill-fitting dentures **before** *they cause problems*. Your mouth changes naturally with age. Your jaws may line up differently as bones and gum ridges recede and shrink. At some point, your dentures might not fit well and may need to be remade.

You are making a **GREAT** decision to invest in your oral health. For more information about taking care of your mouth and oral health, reach out to us.