

Dentures: From Partial to Implant-Supported

Diego Isabella *

Department of Prosthodontics, University of Seville, Seville, Spain

DESCRIPTION

Dentures are a popular and effective solution for replacing missing teeth, helping individuals regain their smile and functionality. Whether due to age, disease, or injury, losing teeth can significantly impact one's quality of life. This study discusses about the types of dentures, their benefits, and what to expect when using them.

Functions of artificial teeth

Removable prosthetic devices called dentures are used to replace lost teeth and improve oral health. They are composed of an acrylic base that is typically designed to resemble gum tissue and porcelain or acrylic fake teeth. Dentures are custom-made to fit the shape of an individual's mouth and can be used to replace a full arch of teeth or just a few missing ones.

Types of dentures

The types may include the following:

Complete dentures: These are used when all teeth in a jaw (upper or lower) are missing. Complete dentures are designed to cover the entire gum arch and provide a full set of replacement teeth.

Partial dentures: These are used when only some teeth are missing. Partial dentures consist of a gum-colored base with artificial teeth attached, which is held in place by clasps or attachments to existing natural teeth.

Implant-supported dentures: These are anchored by dental implants that are surgically placed into the jawbone. Implant-supported dentures offer a more stable and secure fit than traditional dentures.

Immediate dentures: These are made in advance and placed immediately after tooth extraction. Immediate dentures enable patients to have teeth while their gums heal, though adjustments are often required as the gums shrink.

Benefits of false teeth

The benefits of dentures are given below:

Restored functionality: Dentures help restore the ability to chew and speak properly, which can be challenging with missing teeth. They improve the ability to eat a wide range of foods and enhance clear speech.

Aesthetic improvement: Dentures provide a natural-looking appearance, restoring the smile and facial contours lost due to missing teeth. They help boost self-esteem and confidence.

Jaw support: By replacing missing teeth, dentures help maintain the structure of the jawbone and prevent facial sagging that can occur when teeth are lost.

Cost-effective solution: Compared to other tooth replacement options like implants or bridges, dentures can be a more affordable choice for many people.

Caring for dental plates

Proper care is essential to ensure the longevity and comfort of dentures:

Cleaning: Dentures should be cleaned daily to remove food particles and plaque. Use a soft-bristled brush and denture cleaner, and avoid regular toothpaste as it can be too abrasive. Clean dentures over a sink of water to prevent damage if they are dropped.

Soaking: Soak dentures in a denture solution or water overnight to keep them moist and prevent warping. Some types of dentures require specific soaking solutions.

Regular check-ups: Regular dental visits are important for checking the fit of dentures and making necessary adjustments. The dentist can address any concerns related to oral health.

Handling: Handle dentures carefully to avoid dropping them, as they can break if dropped on hard surfaces.

Adjusting to dentures

Getting used to dentures can take time. Initially, one may experience some discomfort or difficulty speaking and eating. This is normal and typically improves as the mouth adjusts. The dentist can provide tips and adjustments to improve comfort and functionality.

Correspondence to: Diego Isabella, Department of Prosthodontics, University of Seville, Seville, Spain, E-mail: IsabellaD@gmail.com

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CONCLUSION

Dentures are a valuable tool in restoring oral health and enhancing quality of life for those with missing teeth. With various types available, from complete and partial dentures to implant-supported options, there is a solution to fit most needs.

By following proper care guidelines and working closely with a dental professional, one can enjoy the benefits of dentures—such as improved functionality, aesthetics, and self-confidence—while maintaining overall oral health.