

# Removable prosthodontics (dentures)

Informed consent: patient information

This patient information sheet answers frequently asked questions about removable prosthodontics (dentures). It has been developed for use in discussion with your dental practitioner.

# 1. What are removable prosthodontics and how will they help me?

Removable prosthodontics are prosthetic or artificial devices, such as dentures and partial dentures that replace missing teeth in your mouth. Replacing lost, damaged or severely decayed teeth may help restore your ability to eat and speak, improve your appearance, and benefit your general health and wellbeing.

#### 2. How do I know if I need a denture?

Although dentures may be beneficial, you do not necessarily need dentures just because you have missing teeth. Some considerations to discuss with your dental practitioner when deciding if you need a denture include:

- are you having trouble chewing food due to the missing teeth?
- are there any problems (decay, gum disease) with your natural teeth?
- do you look after your teeth?
- do you have regular check-ups with a dental practitioner?

### 3. My anaesthetic

This treatment may require an anaesthetic if the fitting of the denture requires teeth to be extracted on the same day. For more information about the anaesthetic and the risks involved please refer to the anaesthetic information sheet that has been provided to you. If extractions are required as part of this treatment, an extractions information sheet will be provided to you. Discuss any concerns with your dental practitioner. If you have not been given an anaesthetic sheet, please ask for one.

## 4. What are the specific risks of this treatment?

In most cases, removable prosthodontic devices are successful however, there is always some risk depending on your general health, how well you care for your surrounding teeth and gums and the care you take with the denture.

#### Common risks and complications include:

- decay: a partial denture will increase the risk of decay for your remaining teeth but will be minimised with good oral hygiene
- sore spots: a new denture may cause a sore spot and/or ulcer when first fitted return to your dental practitioner to check fit and possible readjustment
- speech: your speech may be altered temporarily until your tongue and lips adjust to the new denture
- chewing: your ability to chew certain foods may be altered depending on the stability of the denture this will usually improve with time and practice
- taste: the acrylic and metal parts of a denture may alter your taste of food, especially if the dentures are not cleaned properly
- staining: stain on dentures can occur however this is minimised by good oral hygiene and avoiding such items as tobacco, coffee and tea
- odour: the acrylic part of the denture is porous which can collect microscopic food debris and therefore odour
- reline: the shape and size of your gums and bone may change overtime therefore a new fit (reline) of your denture may be needed
- food retention: the space between the denture and your gums may catch food during eating. The denture must be removed for cleaning throughout the day

  breakage or chipping of the dentures can occur. Biting hard materials, a change in biting forces,
  - breakage or chipping of the dentures can occur. Biting hard materials, a change in biting forces, traumatic blows to the mouth or dropping the denture are all possible causes of a break, chip or loss of clasp



# 4. What are the specific risks of this treatment? (continued)

• bleeding: dentures do not usually cause bleeding however during the construction (including any extractions needed) and the fitting of your denture, bleeding of your gums is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs or some complementary/alternative medicines, such as fish oil and turmeric. Please discuss any medications you are currently taking with your dental practitioner at your initial appointment.

#### Uncommon risks and complications include:

- numb lip: The nerve to the lower lip runs through the lower jaw bone. If bone loss occurs, the nerve will lie directly under the gum. Pressure from a denture on this area may cause a numb lip in a manner similar to pressure on your elbow causing numb fingers. This problem requires adjustment of the denture. In very rare and extreme situations, the nerve would have to be surgically repositioned
- severe or persistent pain: return to your treating dental practitioner
- infection requiring antibiotics and further treatment: return to your treating dental practitioner.

#### Rare risks and complications include:

• death as a result of this treatment is extremely rare.

### 5. What are the risks specific to me?

There may also be risks specific to your individual condition and circumstances. Please discuss these with your dental practitioner and ensure they are written on the consent form before you sign it.

### 6. What are the risks of not having this treatment?

There may be consequences if you choose not to have the proposed treatment. Please discuss these with your dental practitioner. If you choose not to have the treatment you will not be required to sign the treatment plan.

## 7. Who will be performing the treatment?

Your dental practitioner (dentist, dental specialist or dental prosthetist) will conduct the treatment. I understand this could be a student undergoing training or a dental practitioner undergoing further training, under the supervision of a registered dental practitioner.

If you have any concerns about which dental practitioner or student will be performing your treatment please discuss the concerns with your dental practitioner or the supervisor.

#### 8. Useful sources of information

Read about mouth care for yourself, babies, infants and children, and teenagers, emergencies and accidents, mouthguards, water fluoridation, and available dental services on the Queensland Health Oral Health website: www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth

The Queensland Health Informed Consent website has information on various dental procedures: www.health.qld.gov.au/consent

List of blood thinning medications available at: www.health.qld.gov.au/consent/bloodthinner

To quit smoking:

• talk to your dental practitioner, GP, pharmacist, or community health worker

• call Quitline: 13 QUIT (13 78 48)

refer to the Queensland Government website:
 www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/atods/smoking/index.html



Image 1: Website address symb

# 9. Questions to ask your dental practitioner

patient information sheet or any other information you have been given about your condition, treatment.	
10. Contacts	
To find a public local dental clinic, search the Queensland Health Oral H	ealth
vebsite "Contact Us" section for a dental service list. The website is:	
www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/contact_us.asp	Image 3: Ringing phone sym
ou may choose to attend a private dental practitioner (who you may ne	
Dental practitioners who are members of the Australian Dental Associati	•
heir website using the "Find a Dentist" tool. The website is: <u>www.ada.o</u> However, not all private dentists are listed on this website, and you may	
dentist in, for example, the telephone directory or another internet site.	choose to took for a private
Outside of dental clinic/service hours:	
if advice is required, call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84). 13HEALTH provides co	onfidential health advice
24 hours a day, seven days a week	
• if an emergency, call 000. Your local dental clinic contact details are:	
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Please ask your dental practitioner if you do not understand any aspect of the information in this