



Removable partial dentures

A partial denture is a removable denture that replaces missing teeth.

What is a partial denture?

Unlike a full denture, which replaces all teeth in a jaw, a partial denture helps if you have kept one or more teeth. Such a denture can be a more affordable alternative to a dental bridge or other types of tooth replacements.

The denture is fixed by means of brackets (hooks/braces) on the remaining teeth in the mouth. The brackets are located partly on the chewing surface of the teeth to prevent the denture from sinking all the way into the bottom of the toothless parts of the jaw, and partly around the teeth to prevent the

denture from moving and getting out of position.

To make room for the brackets and prevent you from biting directly on them, it is common for the dentist to grind a little on the teeth used for attachment. It may also be necessary to grind on the side of the teeth in order for the brackets to hold the denture in place. The grinding is limited to a minimum and does not lead to pain, increased risk of tooth decay, or other damage.



Different types of partial dentures

Simple wire clamp denture

The simplest bracket denture consists of prosthetic teeth mounted on plastic (acrylic) that are placed against the toothless parts of the jaw. It may have simple steel wire brackets that help hold the denture firmly. This type is rarely used, mainly because it often causes damage to teeth and soft tissues with prolonged use. It can be used as a temporary solution or before the transition to a full denture.

Cast denture

A better option is a cast denture, usually made of a cobalt-chromium alloy. Here too, the prosthetic teeth are attached to a base of acrylic, which in turn is attached to a cast metal part. Because cobalt chromium is a strong material, such dentures can appear very realistic. A cast denture is produced in a way that teeth and jawbone receive a more favorable pressure than with a wire clamp dentures.

Why is it important to preserve even bad molars?

A partial denture will be more stable and cause far less stress on the jawbone if it is attached to teeth both at the beginning and at the end of the toothless area. If it is not possible to preserve a molar as an attachment tooth at the back of the mouth, the denture must rest on the back parts of the gums/jawbone. If the partial denture cannot be supported on other teeth, it must be checked regularly and adjusted, as the jawbone will fade with time.

Maintenance

Over time, the brackets can become loose or break, and the denture is no longer firmly attached. Such wear and tear, or damage, must be fixed by a dentist. If you try to repair the denture yourself, you may risk damaging the denture even more.



What can I do myself?

With a removable partial denture, it is very important to take good care of your own teeth and denture every day, so that you do not get cavities in your teeth and avoid other oral problems as a result of insufficient cleaning. Cavities (caries) are caused by a bacterial coating on the teeth and can be prevented by proper tooth brushing and use of fluoride.

The denture must be removed daily for cleaning and should be kept dry outside the oral cavity overnight. Your dentist or dental hygienist will give you advice and instructions on how to clean teeth and dentures properly. There is a slightly increased risk of caries/

tooth decay on the teeth where the brackets are attached. To preserve these remaining teeth, brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste. The denture is cleaned with a denture brush (or toothbrush) and soap.

By ensuring proper daily cleaning of teeth and dentures, and regular check-ups at the dentist, you can wear the denture for years. Without regular care, complications may arise, and the benefits may be short-lived.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local dental clinic.