

Ask The Dentists

Dear Dr Winter: My boyfriend just got 19 extractions and immediate dentures, but he has a very obvious overbite with the new dentures. I was just wondering if this could be due to the initial swelling from the extractions or is he stuck looking like this? He looks very unnatural and his lip sticks out. Any advice you give would be appreciated.

Dear Melissa, these are great questions and should be answered by his dentist and surgeon. I don't know if the denture was supposed to remove the overbite he originally had or not. Sometimes the surgeon or surgical dentist will remove more bone in the upper jaw so the denture and teeth can be brought back into a more normal bite, called a Class 1 bite arrangement. As they are immediate dentures they are always made before the teeth are removed so there is some guess-work involved as to where to place the teeth.

That is often why dentists will remove back teeth first, allow for healing to occur then make the immediate dentures. This will allow them to set up the back teeth and take an accurate relation between the two jaws to cut down on cosmetic and bite related problems. Then the dentists will remove the front teeth and deliver the denture. This process will decrease the guess-work and allow the laboratory to only remove and set a few teeth as opposed to guessing the positions of an entire arch of teeth at one time. This will also result in a better fit as the back gum tissue will have healed and the denture will fit more accurately on the healed tissue.

Either way, have your boyfriend see his dentist to evaluate the position of the teeth and the swelling.

It is important to know if they placed bone-grafting material in his tooth sockets. This will help prevent bone loss during the first year after teeth are extracted and allow for easier implant placement. People lose 40-60% of the width and height of their remaining bone in the first year



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

after teeth are removed! So performing grafting is a valuable way to preserve the bone for up to a year while he is deciding if he would like to upgrade to dental implants. Dental implants will greatly improve his chewing and get rid of the plastic in the roof of his mouth.

Dentures need to be relined or remade every 3-5 years forever! So I would recommend an implant consultation before the remaining bone erodes and it becomes more difficult to place implants in the future.

You can see photos and videos of our dentistry at www.winterdental.com where you can also read about Upgradeable Dentistry (under Publications) and how we can improve your boyfriend's chewing and function at a pace you can afford.

We welcome our readers to visit our websites and call us for a consultation or comprehensive examination at 414-464-9021.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Winter MAGD, DICOI
Master Academy of General Dentistry
Diplomate International Congress of Oral Implantologists
Dr. Bruce Winter Board M.A.T.C.
Associate Professor Marquette Dental School