

Ask The Dentists

The partials I have had since December have been adjusted and fit good but make my mouth just feel so uncomfortable some days. The tops make my mouth feel really full and bulky even though they don't hurt. I have been a lot happier since I got partials as now I am able to smile and my lips look fuller so my face doesn't seem to droop. I am in advertising so having nice teeth and talking properly is extremely important to me. I want other alternatives to just regular partials. I'm missing almost all back teeth except for two, so I have upper and lower partials currently with the clear clips. Lastly, can you tell me if insurance will pay for this?

Dear Lisa, I am glad you received partials and are adapting to them! I refer to partial dentures and dentures as temporaries in my practice. That is because I want every patient to have stable teeth, which ideally stay in your mouth and don't have to be removed at night. While not everyone is a candidate for fixed implant dentistry it certainly is a great goal.

When people wear partials-even comfortable partials-many things happen. First you lose bone where your back teeth were pulled. The lack of roots in the bone cause the bone to deteriorate and the movement of the partials adds to bone loss. Next, you get expansion of the maxillary sinuses. This is because the roots of the back teeth hold the sinuses up and when the teeth are removed the sinuses expand in a process called pneumatization. Lastly, the clasps of partials move when you chew on the false teeth. This movement is accentuated on the clasped teeth which often become loose and need to be removed at a later date.

So the solution is to have dental implants and fixed bridges. If you have bone loss or the sinuses have expanded you may require sinus lifts and or bone grafting prior to placement of implants. Placing implants will stimulate and preserve bone. Loss of teeth and rubbing on your skin by partials cause bone loss. So our goal in dentistry is to preserve bone at all costs! So placing implants before too much bone loss has occurred will greatly preserve your options as you age. I lecture to other dentists about Upgradeable Dentistry, which allows people to go from dentures to implant supported dentures or even implant supported bridges as their budget allows. So even though insurance doesn't cover this level of complex dentistry we



Drs. Richard and Bruce Winter

offer interest free financing to help you achieve dentistry that will preserve your bone and your options throughout your life according to your budget.

You can visit our website at www.hamptondentallassociates.com for videos, photos, testimonials and to learn about options that will allow you to get rid of your partial dentures.

Wearing partials is a great first step toward repairing your mouth. Moving on to the next step before there is irreversible bone loss is the next step in your dental journey and we would be honored to help you reach that next level of care to improve your smile, your chewing and your self-esteem.

We offer complimentary consultations and recommend comprehensive examination and x-ray visits to help you determine the treatment that's right for you. We invite all of our readers to call us at 414-464-9021 to schedule your visit today!

Yours for better dentistry,

Dr. Richard Winter MAGD, DICOI, DABO/ID

Master Academy of General Dentistry

Diplomate International Congress of

Oral Implantologists

Diplomate American Board of

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