
FAQ: Common Patient Concerns at 2 Weeks

1. "It's been two weeks, why do I still have a lisp when I talk?"

- **The Answer:** "Your tongue is a muscle with a very long memory! It's used to the space where your old teeth (or lack of teeth) used to be. It usually takes about 4 to 6 weeks for your brain and tongue to recalibrate to the new shape of the bridge. Reading aloud at home for 10 minutes a day is the fastest way to fix this."

2. "When can I finally eat a burger or some crusty bread?"

- **The Answer:** "I know it's tough, but we have to wait until **osseointegration** is complete. Right now, your bone is like a house under construction—the foundation is poured, but it hasn't set. If we put too much pressure on it now, the implants could fail. Expect to stay on the soft diet for about 3 to 4 months."

3. "I see a little bit of food stuck under the bridge. Is that going to cause an infection?"

- **The Answer:** "A little debris is normal, which is why we're starting your water flossing routine today. However, if you feel a 'pressure' or notice a bad taste that doesn't go away after cleaning, give us a call. We want to keep that area as flush and clean as possible to protect the healing gums."

4. "My gums feel itchy. Is that normal?"

- **The Answer:** "Itchy gums are actually a great sign! It usually means the blood flow is active and the tissue is healing. Just resist the urge to 'scratch' at them with a toothpick or your fingernail. Stick to the soft toothbrush we provided."

5. "What happens if a screw comes loose or the bridge feels 'wiggly'?"

- **The Answer:** "If you feel *any* movement, call us immediately. Do not try to tighten it yourself or 'test' it by wiggling it with your tongue. It's usually a simple fix, but we need to address it right away to make sure the implants aren't being stressed."