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This sample is a patient information page for a dental practice.

Understanding Dentures

What makes a set of dentures good quality? There are several factors, including:

- How well they fit
- Whether or not they look natural
- The quality of their construction

Dr. Smith performs a series of steps to ensure that your dentures look good and fit well. Some dentists skip some of these steps to make dentures less expensive, which can affect the final result.

Removable dentures are noticeably less strong and secure than natural, healthy teeth. However, the more carefully and accurately they're made, the more comfortable they will feel in your mouth. If they fit well, they should stay in place and enable you to eat what you want.

Making Quality Dentures

When we create your denture, we'll take impressions of your mouth using our 3-D optical scanner. Then, Dr. Smith will create a custom impression tray for your mouth based on that scan. Next, he'll use the custom tray to capture further impressions of your mouth. He'll use a heavy-bodied putty material that will displace the soft tissues around your jaw—where your tongue and cheek attach—which will determine the periphery of the denture. He will follow this with an impression in a light-bodied material that will capture all the detail of the soft tissues. Dr. Smith may also use an instrument called a facebow to record more of your oral measurements to help create a comfortable bite.

As he begins to construct the denture, Dr. Smith will use wax rims to find the optimal height, or vertical dimension, for your teeth. A wax rim is similar to a denture, but instead of teeth, it has a layer of wax that Dr. Smith can adjust. When the vertical dimension on a pair of dentures is wrong, it can affect your speech, appearance, and comfort. If the denture is too short, your face may look sunken and aged. If the vertical dimension is too high, you won't be able to close your mouth comfortably. You could end up with a whistle, a click, or a slur in your speech.

The last step before finishing your dentures is the wax try-in appointment, when you will test a model of your dentures. The base will be made of wax, but the teeth will be the same ones the lab will place in your permanent denture. You'll be able to see exactly how they look in your mouth. Dr. Smith will test the fit of the dentures and, most importantly, make sure you're happy with how they look and feel.

Well-Fitting Dentures

Even the best-fitting denture isn't like having your own teeth. The upper denture is held in place by the suction, but there is no suction to hold a lower denture in place. You'll learn to use your tongue and cheeks to keep it in place.

If you'd like to schedule an appointment and find out if dentures are right for you, please call us at xxx-xxx or fill out our appointment request form. If you aren't ready to commit to a paid exam, you can schedule a brief complimentary visit with Dr. Smith to discuss your dental needs.