

## What is a denture?

- A denture is a removable replacement for missing teeth and surrounding tissues. Two types of dentures are available - complete and partial dentures. Complete dentures are used when all the teeth are missing, while partial dentures are used when some natural teeth remain.

## Different types of dentures

### - **Partial dentures**

Upper and/or lower partial dentures are designed to fill the gap created by missing teeth. Partials can be unclipped and removed when needed, helping you feel more confident if you're missing a small number of teeth. There is a number of materials that partial dentures can be made in as below:

- Acrylic
- Chrome cobalt
- Porcelain
- Valplast

### - **Full/ Complete dentures**

Full dentures, or complete dentures, consist of both upper and lower sets and are removable devices that can be used to replace missing teeth. The denture teeth are made out of porcelain or acrylic and are held together by an acrylic or metal base. Full dentures may be needed when you lose all of your teeth and they can help fill out your appearance again, leaving you feeling more confident to smile.

Both upper and lower dentures rest on the gum tissue and the suction helps to keep them in place. Denture adhesive can also help secure your dentures and stop any food particles from causing discomfort, which can happen if they become trapped under the denture. With proper care and maintenance, full dentures can last anywhere from 5–10 years.

- **Implant supported dentures ( overdenture )**

An overdenture is still a removable prosthesis, but instead of sitting on the gums, it also sits over two or more dental implants. The implants usually have a ball-shaped abutment on them (these look a little bit like miniature tow-balls, like one might see on the back of a car) and the denture has a nylon connector within it, which one might analogise as being like the trailer hitch for the towball. An Overdenture thus is a denture which is connected to two or more implants so that it will not come loose.