

No magical age when dentures are necessary

There is a common misconception that everyone will need complete dentures at some time in their lives. I really believe that this belief is passed down from generation to generation. Grandma and Grandpa had dentures “all their lives”, then Mom and Dad had dentures “all their lives”, and so I know that I’ll need dentures at some time. The fact of the matter is that God never intended for anyone to need artificial plastic or porcelain teeth in our mouths, or He would have put them there in the first place.

Dentures are appropriate in many situations. When they were made for our elder relatives, they were appropriate because knowledge of disease processes that lead to tooth loss was not as developed decades ago. We now know how to treat gum disease and identify it early so that gum disease does not have to lead to tooth loss as it did for our grandparents.



Dr. Kevin Huff
Dentist

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Public fluoridation of water, initiated in the 1950s, has dramatically reduced the incidence of tooth decay. Better techniques for fixing decayed, worn, and broken teeth have led to the ability to save teeth that may not have been possible to save in decades past.

Today, complete denture therapy is a last resort when, for one reason or another, the patient with severely deteriorated or infected teeth has not

been able to benefit from modern medical dentistry. The fact that relatives have had dentures only suggests that there may be a hereditary predisposition to tooth decay or gum disease.

Modern dentistry has made it possible that people who may be prone to tooth decay or gum disease should be able to take their teeth to the grave with them in their ripe elder years. The key is knowledge about oral health and proper home maintenance, which is why it is essential for everyone to see a dentist regularly.

Dr. Kevin Huff is a general dentist in Dover, holds the status of “Master” in the Academy of General Dentistry, and is a Clinical Instructor at the Case School of Dental Medicine.

For questions about dental health or to schedule a complementary consultation, call 330-364-2011, visit www.doctorhuff.net, or ask your regular dentist.

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