



Building Better Oral Health Communities

Better Oral Health in Home Care Facilitator Guide

Activity 5: Care of dentures



Government of South Australia
SA Health



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Better Oral Health in Home Care

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With acknowledgement

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Disclaimer

While every effort was made to ensure the information was accurate and up to date at the time of production, some information may become superseded as future research and new oral hygiene products are developed. In addition, the information in this resource is not intended as a substitute for a health professional's advice in relation to any oral health issues of concern.

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Activity 5 Answers

Care of dentures

Read

Read Better Oral Health in Home Care Part 1

Refer to:

- Care of dentures
- Reporting oral health changes.

Watch

Watch Video

Care of dentures (5 minutes)

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/oralhealthforolderpeoplevideos



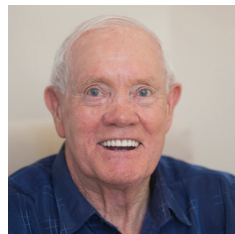
Answer

Characters



Julie

Care worker



Older man

With full dentures



Older woman

With partial dentures

1. How do you remove dentures?

- Before you start ask the client to take a sip of water
- Encourage the client to take out their own denture
- If the client requires assistance, it is easier to take out the lower denture first by holding the lower denture with the thumb and index finger
- Upper full dentures can have a lot of suction holding them up. You need to break the seal between the denture and the palate
- Try holding the front of the denture with your thumb and index finger and rocking the denture so that the back of the denture is dislodged
- If that doesn't work break the seal by pulling down the denture along the side of the denture
- If you want to avoid putting your fingers along the side of the denture, try using a toothbrush to carefully push down on the side of the denture towards the back of the mouth until the denture is loosened and can be easily removed.

2. How do you put dentures in?

- Dentures must always be rinsed well under running water before being placed in a client's mouth
- Encourage the client to insert their own dentures
- If the client requires assistance, insert the upper denture first followed by the lower denture
- Ask the client to open their mouth, hold the denture at a sideways angle as it enters the mouth and then rotate into position.

3. How do you remove a partial denture?

- Before you start ask the client to take a sip of water
- Encourage the client to take out their own denture
- If the client requires assistance, place your fingers under the clasps that cling onto the natural teeth and push down carefully
- Gently grasp the plastic part of the denture and lift out of the client's mouth.

4. How do you put a partial denture in?

- A partial denture must always be rinsed well under running water before placing them in a client's mouth
- Encourage the client to put in their own partial denture
- If they require assistance ask the client to open their mouth, hold the partial denture at a sideways angle as it enters the mouth and then rotate and click into position.

5. What should be used to clean dentures?

- Use denture cleaning paste or mild liquid soap
- Denture brush.

6. What precautions do you take to protect dentures when you are cleaning them?

- Over a basin, face cloth in bottom of basin
- How to hold them properly
- Never clean them in the shower
- Take care not to bend the wires of partial dentures
- Don't put pressure on wires of partial dentures when you brush.

7. Why is toothpaste not recommended for cleaning dentures?

- Toothpaste can be too abrasive
- Over time toothpaste can scratch the denture. This can be a source of irritation and increase the risk of fungal infections such as oral thrush.

8. Why is it recommended to remove dentures overnight and how should they be stored?

- Getting the denture out overnight will help prevent oral thrush.
- Dentures should be cleaned and stored in a way that prevents bacteria growing on the dentures.
- If they are left in a closed container of water, antibacterial denture soaking tablets can be used.

9. What is recommended for cleaning a denture with calculus build up?

- If the denture has calculus build up that can't be removed, soak the denture in vinegar for 8 hours then give them a scrub with denture brush and the calculus will clean away.

10. What should you check before soaking a partial denture?

- Check that the soaking agent is suitable for partial dentures.

11. What denture problems should be reported to the coordinator?

- Unclean and coated dentures
- Broken dentures
- Broken or bent wires on partial dentures
- Client who wears denture overnight
- Signs of a fungal infection such as sore and coated tongue, a red swollen mouth in an area which is covered by a denture.
- Client refusing to wear their denture
- Ulcers and sore spots caused by wearing the denture.

