Partial Dentures
Replace what is lost, preserve what is left

It is very important to replace missing teeth for several reasons:

- Appearance
- Mastication or chewing ability
- Support of remaining teeth
- Support of an opposing full denture

Without complete dentition, you may not be able to adequately masticate your food. Mastication, as opposed to biting and swallowing, involves mixing enough saliva with your food so that adequately dilute your gastric juices ,thereby reducing the risk of digestive problems.

Remember when we were told as kids that we had to chew our food slowly so that we didn't get a sore tummy?

A partial denture
As the name suggests, is to replace some missing teeth in either or both the upper or lower arch. Sometimes a partial denture is required in one arch simply for appearance. More often it is required to improve mastication ability, but if remaining teeth are left unsupported, they may also drift sideways or over erupt making future replacement considerably more difficult.

The other major reason to wear a partial denture is to support an opposing full denture. As an example, where you have a full upper denture and only six remaining lower teeth front teeth- a very common scenario-when you bite on the front teeth of the denture, you will tilt the back of the denture down.

Also it is impossible to satisfactory masticate food without full dentition. Conservation of the remaining natural teeth is enhanced and wear and tear of remaining natural teeth is minimized by wearing a partial denture because chewing and grinding forces are more evenly distributed. A partial denture can significantly support the degree of wear of natural teeth.

Your DP is able to make partial dentures with many different designs and materials.

Some of the commonly used materials are:

- Acrylic Partials
- Nylon Flexible Partials
- Cast Metal Partials

Acrylic partial dentures



Acrylic partial dentures are the lowest cost and because of the ease of repair, reline or addition of further teeth are generally advised where remaining dentition is doubtful one tooth loss is significant. Most acrylic dentures will have stainless steel retention, but in some cases that may not be necessary. Another retention option for acrylic dentures is clear or tooth coloured resin retainers. Ask your DP for more information.

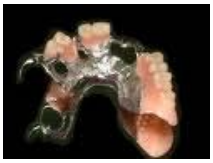
Nylon Flexible Partial Dentures




Made from an injected thermoplastic nylon. There are two basic types with one being more rigid than the other. They are flexible, translucent, and clinically unbreakable and require no metal retainers because the flexibility of the base is used to retain the denture. Another retention option for Nylon Flexible Partial dentures is clear or tooth coloured resin retainers.
Repairs reline or addition of future lost teeth may be possible, but the process often means you will be required to be without your denture for about a week. Ask you DP for more information if this may be a concern to you.

These partials meet all required specifications and are accepted worldwide for their biocompatibility and outstanding properties. Nylon Flexible Partials, make it possible for removable Partial restorations to eliminate costly preparatory work, and still achieve function.

Cast Metal Partial dentures




These are generally thinner and smaller in the mouth than most other options and of course offer great strength and stability as well as support for remaining teeth.
Because of the rigid frame, it is also possible to transfer bite forces to remaining teeth, rather than supporting gums, by the use of metal rests on the occlusal surface of the supporting teeth. They offer many and varied choices with design.

Retention of cast metal Partial can be either cast metal retainers, flexible nylon or tooth coloured resin.

Repair, reline or addition of future lost teeth is sometimes possible but may require laser welding so it is important to check with your DP.