

# The New, Old Way to **Replace Missing Teeth**



**D**entistry is and always will be an essential and noble profession. People need dentists. And no one needs dentists more than the edentulous, the semi-edentulous, and the soon-to-be edentulous—a group that is rapidly growing due to a host of factors, including an aging population, the economy, poor nutrition, and prescription drug use.

Yet, despite these factors, many people are afraid of the dentist and may put off treatment until it's too late—at which point, the only permanent options available are too extensive or expensive to move forward with. But while these patients may not be able to afford implant restorations, they also cannot afford to neglect their oral hygiene and their smile. The best possible and most practice treatment plan may be a partial or complete denture. Don't forget—dentures were the original cosmetic dentistry. What's old is new again.

## Digital Dentures Pave a Path Forward

While dentistry has made significant strides in bone grafting, implants, and fixed restorations, the landscape of removable prosthetics has evolved, too. For example, digital dentistry has completely revolutionized denture technology and offers tangible benefits on both sides of the chair, including facial digital integration that enables better esthetics, faster turnaround times, a stronger and less porous appliance than conventional dentures, and the ability to change the color and shape of the dentures without affecting the fit.

Not only is the dental CAD software used to design dentures extremely precise, but it allows the patient's teeth to be completely customized instead of choosing from pre-existing tooth sizes and shapes. Identical dentures can be kept on file digitally—making duplicate dentures a reality and emergency scenarios where patients are without their teeth a thing of the past.

"Digital dentistry has completely revolutionized denture technology and offers tangible benefits on both sides of the chair."

## Connecting the Dots

As a dentist, I know there is a tremendous lack of unbiased factual information available for people to learn about the options for replacing their missing teeth. I wanted to change all that, which is why I developed DentureWearers.com—an educational, informative, interactive, and helpful website for both the public and the dental community. This forum offers patients an honest place to learn about every treatment available to replace their missing teeth, while allowing dentists to share recent cases and clinical images with patients and other dental professionals, and paint a picture of what can be expected from each treatment option. The ultimate goal is to connect those who provide denture treatment with those who need it.

Patients want everything they need in one place. The offices that can accommodate all of their patients' wishes are the ones that will succeed. No dentist can do it all, but a group of multi-specialty dentists can better serve patients by offering everything from fillings to fixed hybrids. In this setting, the dentist enjoys more professional satisfaction, and the patient gets the best treatment.

---

**Lorin Berland, DDS**, has published over 100 articles and several best-selling books, including the *Lorin Library Smile Guide*. He began his career as a denture technician, and after more than 35 years running a multispecialty practice and listening to his patients' concerns, he created Dr. B Dental Solutions—a complete line of products designed specifically to treat issues patients face when wearing oral appliances, such as infections and dry mouth. He recently launched DentureWearers.com, an online community that connects dental professionals with patients who need or want dentures.