

Relines, Rebases & Tissue Conditioners

Relines are used to refit a current denture or partial denture to the underlying tissue. A tissue conditioner is meant to be an interim lining to help healing or “conditioning” the tissue for a more long-term liner. There are several types of relines made depending on the situation.

Tissue Conditioner: This is a chairside procedure typically used for a patient after surgery or while healing. Sometimes this is indicated for a patient who has a poorly fitting denture and should have the tissue healed and prepared for a more long-term liner. The tissue conditioner is placed in a very soft state, and becomes progressively firmer over time. Tissue conditioners are used for short term relines and should usually be replaced after a period of 3 months, although some last as long as 6 months. Since the material is definitely a temporary solution, it is porous and can retain bacteria and fungus/yeast, so generally unhealthy to keep in for long periods of time.

Reline: This is a procedure to place a more-long term, longer lasting, hard, or sometimes soft liner inside the tissue bearing surface of the prosthesis. After time a denture may loosen due to tissue changes, bone loss, or other various factors and if the prosthesis is still serviceable, that is, it has teeth that have retained enough structure to still maintain good chewing and function, then a reline can replace the space created with a better fitting tissue bearing surface.

Hard Reline: This procedure can be done chairside or indirectly processed at a lab.

Chairside hard relines are sometimes a better solution for people who simply cannot be without their denture for a day. While very effective for many, a laboratory processed reline is a better and recommended choice.

Laboratory indirect relines are made after an impression or tissue conditioner is used to capture the area to be relined and the denture sent to the dental laboratory for replacement of this material with a processed hard liner. This hard liner is made of the same material the other part of the pink colored denture is made of and stronger than a chairside hard reline.

Soft Reline: This procedure can be done chairside or indirectly processed at a lab.

Chairside soft relines similar to hard relines are sometimes a better solution for people who simply cannot be without their denture for a two-days. This is sometimes a very good option for immediate replacement and fit. The adhesion to the denture base is sometimes impaired at the junction/borders of the hard acrylic base and can delaminate. These should be considered a short-term solution.

Laboratory indirect soft relines are made after an impression or tissue conditioner is used to capture the area to be relined and the denture sent to the

dental laboratory for replacement of this material with a processed soft liner. This soft liner is made of a processed soft material and has better adhesive characteristics and seal than a chairside soft reline. This liner may last up to two years, but due to this still being a soft material, they will wear, discolor and generally deteriorate over time.

Reline vs. Rebase: The difference between these two procedures is a partial or total replacement of the tissue-colored material of the prosthesis. A *reline* replaces part of the base, whereas a *rebase* replaces all the tissue-colored base and just the original teeth of the prosthesis remain. A rebase is many times preferred, as an older denture base will discolor, stain, retain odors and even may harbor bacteria/microorganisms.

If you have any questions about tissue conditioners, relines, or rebases please feel free to ask us.