

# BDJ Team CPD

## CPD questions October 2022

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### Article: Denture cleanliness and hygiene: an overview

**CLINICAL**

**Denture cleanliness and hygiene: an overview**

Pratt, Wilson<sup>1</sup>, Pitts<sup>2</sup>, Millett<sup>3</sup> and Robbedt-Mitchell<sup>4</sup>

**Key points**

- Denture cleanliness and hygiene are essential for patient health and well-being.
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**Abstract**

Dentures are an essential treatment modality for partial and edentulous patients, however, improper denture care and hygiene can result in both physical and psychological harm. This article provides an overview of the current evidence on denture cleanliness and hygiene, and discusses the implications for clinical practice.

**Introduction**

With global ageing, which represents the greatest demographic shift in the world, the number of people with partial and complete dentures is expected to increase significantly. This article provides an overview of the current evidence on denture cleanliness and hygiene, and discusses the implications for clinical practice.

**CLINICAL**

**Antibiotic denture disinfection**

The Denture Cleanliness Index (DCI) is a validated measure of denture cleanliness. It is based on the visual inspection of the denture surface for plaque, debris, and staining. The DCI is scored from 0 to 100, with 100 representing a perfectly clean denture and 0 representing a completely soiled denture.

**Wettable denture disinfection**

Wettable denture disinfection is a process that involves immersing dentures in a disinfectant solution. This method is effective for removing plaque and debris from the denture surface.

**Ultrasonic denture disinfection**

Ultrasonic denture disinfection is a process that involves using ultrasonic waves to clean dentures. This method is effective for removing plaque and debris from the denture surface.

**CLINICAL**

**Hand hygiene**

Hand hygiene is essential for preventing the spread of infection. Denture wearers should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling their dentures.

**Denture storage**

Dentures should be stored in a clean, dry container. They should not be stored in water for extended periods of time, as this can promote bacterial growth.

**Denture cleaning**

Dentures should be cleaned daily with a soft brush and mild soap. They should not be cleaned with abrasive materials, as this can damage the denture surface.

**CLINICAL**

**Denture cleaning methods**

There are several methods for cleaning dentures, including manual brushing, ultrasonic cleaning, and wettable disinfection. Each method has its own advantages and disadvantages.

**Manual brushing**

Manual brushing is the most common method for cleaning dentures. It involves using a soft brush and mild soap to clean the denture surface.

**Ultrasonic cleaning**

Ultrasonic cleaning is a more advanced method for cleaning dentures. It involves using ultrasonic waves to clean the denture surface.

**Wettable disinfection**

Wettable disinfection is a process that involves immersing dentures in a disinfectant solution. This method is effective for removing plaque and debris from the denture surface.

**1. According to the Medical Devices Regulations Act 2002, Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (2013), and Medical Devices Directive, what type or class of medical device are dentures categorised as?**

A. Class I  
B. Class IIa  
C. Class IIb  
D. Class III

**2. When using the Denture Cleanliness Index, if denture hygiene was scored as DCI 3, this means:**

A. clean denture. No plaque is visibly seen, no staining, no plaque detectable  
B. denture is visibly clean. Little staining (<25% fit surface stained)  
C. denture has visible plaque and/or debris. Moderate staining of fit surface (25–50% fit surface stained)  
D. denture has visible plaque and/or debris. Severe staining of fit surface (>50% fit surface stained)

**3. Typically, bleach-based denture cleaners contain which active ingredient?**

A. sodium hypochlorite  
B. sodium bicarbonate  
C. amylase enzymes  
D. chlorhexidine digluconate

**4. Which denture cleaning method is generally considered the most compatible with respect to any commonly prescribed denture materials?**

A. manual cleaning with stiff toothbrush and smokers toothpaste  
B. bleach-based denture cleaner  
C. microwave irradiation  
D. effervescent type denture cleaner

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