maintain your implants, crowns or den-
tures to keep your whole mouth healthy.”

Board certified prosthodontist and ACP
President Carl F. Driscoll, DMD, FACP, en-
courages patients to maintain their nat-
ural teeth by brushing for two minutes
twice a day, flossing once a day and eat-
ing a healthy diet. Visiting a dentist for
regular cleanings and examinations can
stop dental disease in its tracks before it
becomes a more serious and expensive
problem down the road, he said.

Plan B: Dentures, implants, ASAP

If patients lose their teeth, Felton recom-
mends that they visit a prosthodontist to
replace their teeth right away. The most
common and least expensive tooth-
replacement methods are full or partial
dentures. Full dentures replace all the
teeth by resting on the gums that cover
the jawbones. Partial dentures attach to
the teeth that are still present and rest on
the gums and bone where the teeth are
missing, according to the ACP.

For patients who need dentures right
away, prosthodontists can place “imme-
diate dentures,” which are temporary
and can take about an hour. These den-
tures are for short-term use only, and
should be replaced with high-quality,
long-lasting permanent dentures, which
can be available in a few days, Vickers
said. In addition, prosthodontists can
use CAD/CAM technology to create vir-
tual digital dentures to replicate existing
dentures to streamline the process and
are excited about new technology op-
tions including 3-D printing of dentures
recently approved to go to market.

The ACP recommends that patients
clean their dentures by hand with a
dish washing liquid and a special den-
ture brush every day. After rinsing them
thoroughly, soak the dentures in a water-
based cleaning solution overnight.

Prosthodontists are specialized den-
tists with advanced training, committed
to improving patient outcomes. From
implants, crowns, veneers and tooth
whitening, to full-mouth reconstruction,
prosthodontists specialize in digital den-
tisty. CAD/CAM, and cosmetic dentistry
solutions. The ACP is the only prosth-
odontic specialty organization whose
membership is based solely on educa-
tion credentials. ACP members must be
in or have completed an ADA-accredited
advanced education program in prosth-
odontics.

About the ACP
The American College of Prosthodontists
is the official sponsoring organization for
the specialty of prosthodontics, which is
one of the only nine recognized special-
ties of the American Dental Association.

Founded in 1970, ACP is a not-for-profit
organization dedicated to enhancing
patient care, advancing the art and sci-
ence of prosthodontics, promoting the
specialty of prosthodontics to the pub-
lic and other dentists and health care
professionals, ensuring the quality of
prosthodontic education and providing
professional services to its members. To
learn more, oral health professionals can
visit www.prosthodontics.org. The orga-
nization also provides a “Find your local
prosthodontist” search at GoToAPro.org.

(Source: American College of Prosthodontists)