

Implant-Retained Overdentures

DR JEAN PAUL DEMAJO ON MAXIMISING THE STABILITY, COMFORT AND HYGIENE OF YOUR DENTURES



Upper and lower overdentures with pink retention clips



Upper arch with four implants and locators for retention



Lower arch with three implants and locators for retention

Many people who have conventional dentures don't wear them for the simple reason that they don't stay in place and hurt because they move on chewing.

The use of dental implants to stabilize dentures has proven to be a very successful treatment modality for many people worldwide. The number continues to grow as word spreads about the effectiveness and long-term durability of the treatment. In fact, it has been reported that dental implants have the highest success rate of any implanted surgical device in the body.

PROBLEMS WITH LOOSE DENTURES

There are still millions of people around the world who are missing enough teeth to require the use of a denture. Many of them have problems in keeping their dentures secure, particularly in the lower jaw. The increase in mobility of the lower jaw denture is due to the fact that unlike the hard palate in the upper jaw, the lower jaw has less surface area and therefore less support and retention. The lower denture also has a tendency to be displaced by the tongue when talking and chewing. On the other hand the disadvantage of the upper denture is the middle plate, which covers the palate, reducing taste and affecting speech. Patients with a strong gag reflex cannot tolerate any palatal coverage of the denture further reducing the ability of the denture to stay in place.

You may have heard that no matter how good your dentures are, you will still be subjected to a reduced ability to chew all types of food, reducing your quality of life. Unfortunately as time goes by, we tend to put up with the situation, which we come to believe is our only option. If you have this problem, you already know about the embarrassment of moving dentures.

There is however a way to stabilize your dentures enough to feel like fixed teeth but still be left with the advantage of removing the denture, maximizing denture hygiene and comfort. All this with the help of dental implants.

DENTAL IMPLANTS USED FOR OVERDENTURE STABILIZATION:

- Restore proper chewing, allowing a better diet and improved health
- Improve speech and confidence
- Increase comfort with close to no irritation of gum tissue
- Replace lost hard and soft oral tissue propping up facial features, reducing creases and improving appearance
- End the cost and inconvenience of denture adhesives

Ask your dentist! **C**



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A CASE SCENARIO

A middle-aged woman presents with very mobile upper and lower remaining dentition. Having been in this situation for long, and reluctant to have dentures, she finally plucks up the courage and opts for overdentures.

The treatment plan included:

- Extraction and immediate placement of conventional dentures
- Placement of implants two months post-extraction of teeth, while retaining her previously fabricated conventional dentures
- Elimination of conventional dentures and construction of new overdentures to be supported by the implants, four months post-implantation