

# GOODBYE TO *Dentures*

DR JEAN PAUL DEMAJO EXPLAINS HOW TO SHIFT FROM REMOVABLE DENTURES TO FIXED IMPLANTED TEETH



For how many years have you worn a denture? How often have you thought of switching to fixed teeth? Have you been consulted on your treatment options?

**CASE STUDY:** A middle-aged man who has been wearing a removable denture with five teeth on it for a few years. He previously had an upper 5-tooth fixed bridge supported by three of his upper natural anterior teeth. These had to be extracted leaving him with the removable denture. He was told he couldn't have implants due to a lack of bone. His complaints were:

1. Mobility of denture on eating
2. Loss of taste due to coverage of his palate with his denture plate
3. Inconvenience of having to remove his denture everyday
4. Psychologically demeaning to have a denture at such a young age.

## INVESTIGATIONS:

- Intra/Extra oral examination: External facial profile including soft tissue support. Often lips and cheeks collapse inwards due to lack of adequate support from loss of teeth or due to incorrectly placed artificial teeth.
- Cone beam CT scan: This 3D scan provides all information necessary to measure the remaining bone and to plan for implant therapy.
- Psychological analysis: It is important to

know what the patient wishes to achieve and whether the proposed treatment plan will suit all of the patients' concerns. Is the patient ready to go through this treatment plan?

- Medical and Dental health: Good general health together with good oral health is an important prerequisite to implant treatment.
- DSD-Digital Smile Design: Using sophisticated programming, a mock-up of the potential aesthetic result may be constructed in the laboratory and temporarily placed in the mouth for the patient to see and approve.

## TREATMENT PLAN

1. Following the above investigations bone grafting was performed to restore the bone volume to the original height, width and depth prior to tooth loss. This was done in two stages; initial bone grafting followed by implant placement post graft healing. Bone grafting was performed using a titanium mesh to contain the bone and allow its healing together with its integration with the patient's own remaining bone.
2. 3-4months after grafting, the titanium mesh was removed and the 3 implants were placed to sustain the future fixed implant prosthesis.
3. 4 months post-implantation, the implants were exposed and the impression for the final fixed bridge was taken.
4. In-lab construction of the bridge was executed and finalized until it was fixed onto the healed implants.



Pre-implant treatment with denture



Implants in place



Post-Implant treatment

Although this treatment plan may sound very complex and lengthy, it is the price one pays to be comfortable and restored back to normality. Nobody knows what patients with dentures go through on a daily basis except them. As professionals, we are bound to advise them on what is best for them, not for us - and in this case, the pros far exceed the cons. It is mind over matter. Ask your Dentist!

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