



Implant-Supported Dentures



Conventional dentures are often loose-fitting and continued wear results in further atrophy/resorption of the dental ridge under the denture. Over time, the dental ridge continues to undergo resorption and the denture even becomes less stable. Implants can be used to stabilize and support the denture, much like a partial denture is supported by teeth. Stabilization of the denture results in a more comfortable denture and one that will chew more efficiently and effectively.

The benefit of placement of implants to support a denture is most significant for the lower denture. The lower denture has a very unstable base on which to rest, is constantly displaced by the activities of the lips/cheeks/tongue, and generally patients have more problems with the mobility of the lower denture. Unstable upper dentures also benefit greatly from support by implants.

The surgical procedure consists of placement of two to four implants into the jaw done through small incisions in the gum tissue. After the implants have healed, abutments that extend through the tissue are attached to the implants. Individual attachments for the denture are then placed onto the implants or a bar is built between them. The opposing portion of the attachment apparatus is built into the underside of the denture, effectively attaching it to the bone through the implants.

In addition to stabilizing the denture, the other tremendous benefit of implant placement to support a denture is that it helps preserve the bone of the dental ridge, resisting the resorption that normally occurs under a conventional denture.