



Dental implant surgery has advanced to the point that it can correct dental problems that result when one loses all one's teeth. People who have implants or implant-supported dentures live longer, eat better and enjoy life more.

Dentures supported by implants may be the best solution for those who have lost most or all of their teeth. Denture implants can restore the ability to chew and give back a self-confident attractive smile.

Why Implant-Supported Dentures, But Not Usual Dentures?

An **implant-supported denture** is a type of denture supported by dental implants and attached to jaw. Implant dentures are attached to implants, while a regular denture is placed directly on the gum tissue. Implant-supported dentures have a nearly 100% success rate. Approximately 30% of the population cannot tolerate even well-fitting traditional dentures.

Dentures supported by implants are much more secure than traditional dentures. Using anesthetic, implants are placed by a specialist directly into the jawbone during a regular dental appointment. Discomfort is minimal. Bone grows around the implants. Fittings on the implants are used to secure the dentures.

When a person lacks enough bone in the jaw to support implants, a bone-grafting material is placed before, or during, the implant procedure. This usually requires additional healing time. Again, discomfort is minimal. Even when no vertical bone height remains, placing two implants in the front part of the jaw permits extremely efficient and comfortable use of a lower denture. More implants increase the stability further.

Implant retained dentures are more often made for the lower jaw, because regular dentures tend to be less stable there. Upper dentures are usually quite stable and don't require the extra support dental implants provide. However, dentures can be implant-supported in either the upper or lower jaw. Implants preserve bone.

Implant retained dentures can be removed easily. Some people prefer to have fixed implant-dentures that can't be removed. Dr. Satterfield will consider your particular needs and preferences when suggesting fixed or removable dentures.

Dentures supported by implants can cause soreness and discomfort at first and take some time to get adjusted to your mouth. This adjustment is usually much less than with traditional dentures. Speaking and eating may feel different, but comfortable.

Implant-Dentures and implants need special care. Plaque and calculus build up on a denture and implants similar to the process on natural teeth. Regular professional cleaning of the implants is necessary. The Hygienist uses special non-scratching-instruments. The attachments in the denture need to be checked and occasionally replaced. The bite may need adjusting from time to time as wear occurs.

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