

## Choices for Tooth Replacement for the Entire Jaw of Teeth

### Say “Goodbye!” to Dentures

#### Non-Removable Implant Teeth



**Upper Implant Teeth**



**Lower Implant Teeth**

This type of implant teeth is the best option to completely **eliminate** dentures, resulting in a non-removable implant supported teeth that stay in the mouth just like your natural ones did. They are attached to the implants with high-strength dental cement.

If screws are used to attach implant teeth to implants, the screws have very high rates of loosening causing dentist and patient frustration. Therefore for any implant procedure; the best way to attach the teeth to the implants is with high-strength dental cements.

The obvious benefit is that these teeth are non-removable and have a solid “feel” that is the most natural and “teeth-like” for chewing. In addition, this type of replacement teeth is the most streamlined in size of any implant tooth replacement option. They are easily cleaned and restores facial support. They require under the best circumstances five implants and more implants in less favorable situations. This type of replacement tooth also prevents the further loss of jaw bone.

#### Removable Implant Supported Teeth

This option provides another way to stabilize or completely eliminate a denture. While fewer implants can be used for this type of teeth (3 or 4 implants when only stabilizing), there is a higher risk for replacement of one or more implants over the years due to fewer implants handling the same chewing stresses.

The benefits this type of implant supported teeth is that they **eliminate** jaw bone loss, loose dentures, sore spots from dentures, food under dentures and embarrassing denture slippage. This option also restores facial support. In addition, the biting force is much

greater than dentures resulting in a more natural bite.



This example is how a custom bar and implants can be used to stabilize a denture resulting in very solid feeling to the implant supported teeth. The only difference between this type of implant supported teeth and the one above is that the teeth are still removable and they require more bulk for strength. The teeth are retained by the design of the supporting bar and with attachments inside the teeth. Five implants or more are required for this type of treatment which also allows for fixed implant supported teeth later should you choose to ‘upgrade’ your implant teeth. There is also less bulk than a traditional upper denture making for more tongue room and improved food enjoyment since the palate is no longer covered.



This is an example of how a “ball and hitch” implant attachment can make a denture stable for chewing and to reduce sore spots. This option is a good one compared to no implants at all and can still greatly reduce bulk as compared to an upper denture. The main disadvantages are that the teeth are removable and the attachments require replacing every 2 to 5 years at minimal cost.

### **“Mini” Dental Implants**



Mini dental implants provide a way to stabilize a denture with the least cost. While this can provide a long term solution, the stress placed on this type of implant has more implant failures. The denture is still bulky but is more stable and doesn't "jump up" quite so much thanks to the silicone 'o' rings inside of the denture. These implants help prevent bone loss and are easy to clean. It is possible to remove mini implants and to replace them with regular implants to experience the greater benefits of the other types of implant supported teeth although this does require a more complicated surgery and more expense later in order to do so.

### **Complete Dentures**



While providing a short term cost savings, dentures are far more costly over the long term because of the complexity in correcting the bone destruction to the jaws caused by the denture. If dentures are worn long enough, the jaw bone erodes to the point where no denture can be satisfactorily worn and jaw bone fracture is common. Once the jaw has eroded to this condition, the only solution is to take a bone graft from the hip and place it into the jaw to allow for tooth replacement. Without doing so the patient can plan on having no replacement teeth for many years in their "golden years" of life.