

# Choose Dental Implants to Hold Dentures in Place.



Loose-fitting dentures cause a variety of problems with appearance, eating, speaking, and can be uncomfortable. A dental implant is a titanium structure placed into the jawbone by your Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon (*Figure 1*). Special attachments hold the denture to the implants securely.



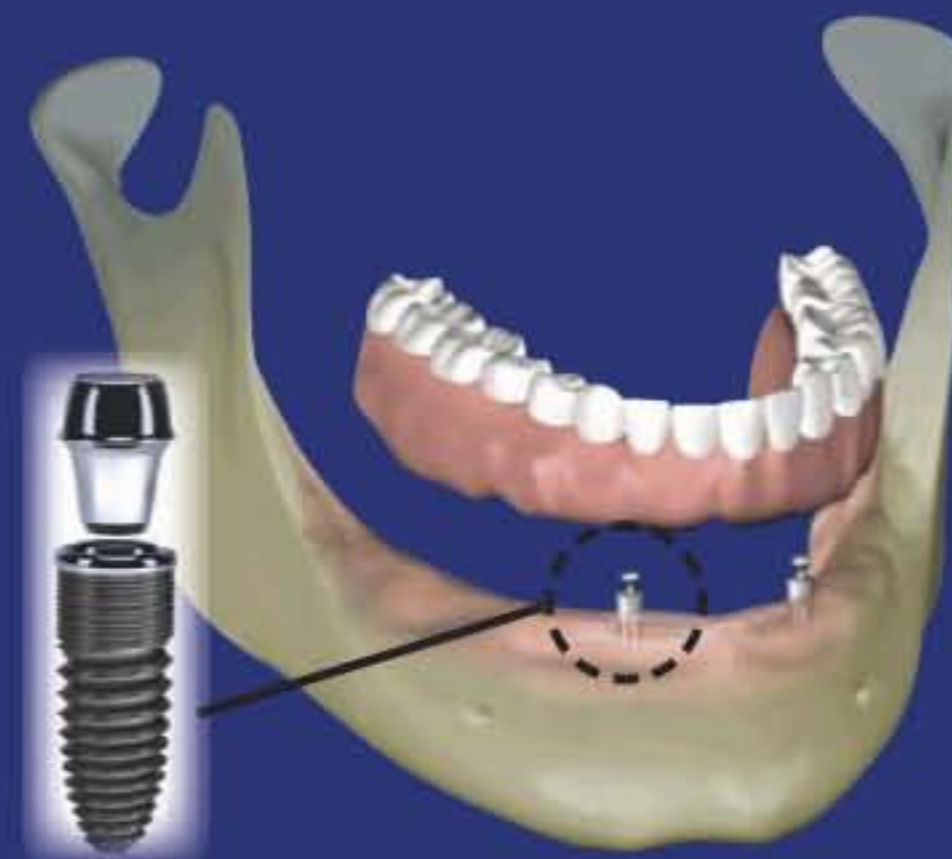
*Figure 2: Extraction Site*

When patients lose their teeth (*Figure 2*), the jawbone resorbs which results in the decreased bone height and shrinkage of gum tissue (*Figure 3*).



*Figure 3: Bone loss over time after teeth are extracted*

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*Figure 1: Implant-Retained Lower Denture*

The good news is dental implants can retain the shape of the jawbone. Implants function as natural teeth, which stimulates the bone to maintain bone structure and shape.



# Conclusions

Dental implants are the recommended solution for patients who demand a secure-fitting denture for the following reasons:

In most cases, dental implants can be placed by your Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon in the office with a local or general anesthetic. Discuss which anesthetic technique is best for you with your surgeon.

The lower jaw requires a minimum of two dental implants, while the upper jaw requires four implants to hold a denture securely in place. Implants are one of the safest procedures performed in dentistry.



*Figure 4: Implant-Retained Upper Denture*

A temporary denture can be worn over the implants for 2-3 months while the implants fuse to the bone. This allows patients to have teeth and resume daily activities while healing takes place. A permanent denture can then be made by your general dentist (*Figure 4*).

- Eating and speaking difficulties are minimized because the denture is held securely to the implants.
- Cosmetic appearance is improved by retaining the shape of the jawbone.
- Dentures are more comfortable with reduced "sore spots".
- Implants still allow self-removal of dentures to clean.

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