

Dental & Dental Hygiene 2018: Implant-assisted overdentures: a paradigm relocation and simplification - Mostafa Helmy Mostafa Ahmed - Cairo University

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Completely edentulous patients often have problems with their complete dentures; a treatment modality of using two, four or six implants to support over dentures has been proposed to improve the retention as well as the stability of the conventional denture, in addition to preserving the residual alveolar bone.

Several worldwide research studies tested the impact of implant-assisted over dentures on satisfaction and quality of life and concluded that individuals with implant-assisted over dentures were more satisfied and had a better oral health quality than others with conventional dentures. Implant-supported over dentures are indicated in clinical conditions requiring high values of retention and stability such as cases of high muscle attachments. Implant-retained over dentures offered a simpler, cheaper and equally successful prosthetic solution compared to the fixed restorations in the rehabilitation of maladapted edentulous mandibles.

Moreover, they provide enhanced masticatory function, higher patients' satisfaction and quality of life than the conventional complete dentures. Systematic reviews comparing implant-supported over dentures retained by utilizing a wide range of attachment mechanisms were recently published. The implant-supported treatment modality might be in the form of splinted implants (e.g. bar-retained over dentures), or unsplinted

implants (as in case of ball, locator or magnetic attachments). Owing to the smaller space requirements, ease of cleaning, more economical achievement and lower technique sensitivity; unsplinted attachments have been preferred over splinted ones.

The most common maintenance requirement of any over dentures attachment, found to be the renewal or reactivation of the retentive element. Inadequate inter-arch space was found to be one of the major causes of bulk fracture of the acrylic denture base. Furthermore, it might lead to inappropriate positioning of the denture teeth with subsequent esthetic and phonetic problems.

Locator's attachments presented the lowest profile of the currently available stud attachments. Findings suggested that depending on the attachment system used, the degree of patient satisfaction is directly affected by the amount of retention and stability of the implant-supported over dentures. Learning objectives of this presentation will be, detailed amplification of the implant-supported over dentures, measuring the degree of patient satisfaction, simplifying the procedures of over dentures construction, practical measurements of optimum number of implants to be utilized and different construction approaches of implant-assisted over dentures in both arches.