Mini-Implants Solving Problems with Dentures

Joondalup, WA, 03 August 2016 - People with dentures aren't always happy with them. Research has shown that people who have lost all their teeth, a condition known as being “edentulous,” can be emotionally debilitating and cause grieving comparable to that experienced when losing a loved one.

In fact, a study of 50 edentulous people found that they suffer from numerous manifestations of sadness and discomfort. These included: altered social behaviour resulting in a lack or close relationships, trying to keep their dentures secret, lowered self-image, lowered self confidence, a dislike for their own appearance and even “bereavement.”

Indeed, people asked to rate losing their teeth on a scale with other important life events ranked tooth loss above such events as getting married, having a child or retirement.

Dentures are an effective solution for those who have lost their teeth but they are prosthetics that can’t fully replace the function of a full set of teeth. Bottom dentures tend to “float,” making chewing problematic at times. Upper dentures can also loosen and cover the palate, reducing the sensation of taste when eating or drinking.

A full mouth of dental implants can be the solution most like having one’s original teeth but they are expensive and the amount of surgery for 32-36 traditional implants is arduous, to say the least. In addition, those who have lost too much bone in the jaw or have congenital structural deficiencies cannot tolerate standard dental implants.

The original solution was to combine standard implants with full bridge dentures. Two anterior mandible implants are often enough to support a full bridge. Standard implants can also help protect the integrity of the jawbone and keep it from being reabsorbed.

A plethora of clinical trials lasting for durations of six months to as long as nine years all concluded that mandibular two-implant overdentures provide superior performance over standard dentures. However, this option is not available for everyone. If they don’t have enough bone to hold a standard implant, they can’t have a standard implant. In addition, some find it cost-prohibitive.

Luckily, there is a solution that is available to more people and can save money: mini-implants.

Mini-Implants: A Hybrid Approach to Dental Implants and Dentures

Mini-implants in conjunction with a full denture are providing a popular hybrid solution for dental implants and dentures. They can be only half as wide as standard implants, requiring less bone density for success. They can be installed in one appointment and can often be used with the patient’s previous dentures, saving money over a new set.

The dentist drills holes for the implants and places them in. Wrenches and drivers are then used to secure the implants. The mini-implants have a ball head onto which dentures can snap. Under perfect circumstances, a patient can have all of this in one day.

It isn’t a perfect solution and it isn’t for everyone but a lot of people are grateful for it.

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