

**ATLAS
Narrow-Body
Implants**

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Backgrounder: Denture Comfort™

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It's been said that more dentures can be found in their rightful owner's bedside drawer than in their mouth. That's because without teeth or implants to stimulate the bone, shrinkage of the ridge occurs. In fact, eight out of every 10 denture wearers experience problems with the fit and function of their prosthesis. Over time, constant pressure of the dentures' hard acrylic base may lead to additional deterioration of the bone. This shrinkage concurrently alters the fit of the denture, causing it to slip or rock. Eventually the ill-fitting dentures compel patients to seek repeated professional help to adjust the fit and they may ultimately resort to messy denture adhesives.

According to the respected dental lecturer Paul Homoly, DDS, president of Homoly Communications Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina, dentists often don't look forward to having patients with dentures. When asked why, he replied that the procedure leaves both doctor and patient feeling bereft of lasting solutions: there is continuous need for repeated visits to the dentist for adjustments; patients endure discomfort and, worse yet, experience difficulty with everyday functions like speaking, chewing, and smiling or laughing. Even unwanted sounds may also be heard coming from the dentures, like clicking or whistling.

All of this leaves people wearing conventional dentures feeling insecure and self-conscious. Denture wearers of any age could find themselves changing their daily routine—even choosing to avoid eating because of discomfort or embarrassment. Just think: their nutritional well-being and overall health could be suffering just because their dentures aren't secure! And if they're embarrassed about how they look or are afraid that others will know they're wearing dentures, they may also avoid satisfying social interactions—which leads to reduced self esteem and feelings of loneliness. All of this is endured because the one alternative they may have—changing their conventional dentures

into implant supported dentures —has historically been out of their reach because of high prevailing costs, painful and inconvenient surgical procedures, or limitations in the size (width) of their ridges.

The Affordable, Confident Solution

Atlas® Denture Comfort™ is a simple solution that was developed by Dentatus USA, Ltd. in conjunction with world-renowned researchers at New York University College of Dentistry, Department of Implant Dentistry. This affordable 45-minute to 1- hour clinical and restorative procedure is a recently developed technology that is soon to be the industry standard for securing and retaining either a patient's new or existing dentures. Atlas Implants, approved for marketing by the FDA, are suitable for retaining lower dentures economically, regardless of the patient's age.

The Denture Comfort procedure consists of placing four Atlas narrow-bodied titanium alloy implants into the edentulous (toothless) jaw—usually toward the front. Then, Denture Comfort's cushioning silicone—Tuf-Link™—is placed inside the denture to fit snugly over and around the short, protruding heads of the Atlas implants, so that the denture can be securely and confidently retained. The result is a comfortable fit and optimal retention—all without surgery, all without bleeding, all without bank-breaking expense!

The process of placing these small implants (ie, only 2.2 mm or 2.4 mm in diameter) requires no surgical incision and no sutures—both of which are typical for wider, more conventional implants. Only local anesthesia is used to minimize any potential discomfort. The benefits of this procedure include:

- No surgery because it's a minimally invasive, flapless procedure (ie, no cutting open the gum tissue)
- Ideal for people with narrow ridges (who may have been turned away from implant procedures before) because Denture Comfort uses only small Atlas implants (*Note to editors: In extremely narrow or resorbed ridges, surgical flaps may be the appropriate procedure; only skilled dental professionals can make that determination.*)
- Use of an existing denture that is retained in place using the Atlas implants and securely attached with the Tuf-Link silicone cushioning reline material without adhesives, which are known to absorb bacteria and cause halitosis (bad breath)
- Dentures can be easily removed and resealed without any stress
- Patients can wear their dentures at night while they sleep
- Affordable—between \$1,500 and \$2,500 for the retrofitted procedure (with an existing denture), compared to a minimum \$7,000 for conventional implant procedures

Denture Comfort™: A Significant Innovation

To put the significance of the availability of the affordable and surgery-free Denture Comfort procedure into perspective, consider that until its introduction, if someone lost all of their upper and/or lower teeth, dentures alone were most likely their only option for replacing them. Conventional implants to hold the denture in place are expensive and require lengthy and painful surgeries and a waiting period before the dentures can be worn comfortably.

Until recently, most implants were placed by the oral surgeon or periodontist. However, a shift in who places implants has occurred. In 1996, only 4% of general practitioners were placing implants, but in 2003, that percentage rose to 9%. All indications are that this number is rapidly increasing.

In 2004, a special meeting of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) initiated a discussion to review implant dentistry in the dental education curriculum and evaluate those procedures that should be considered as the standard of care.¹ Such a decision could change the dental profession; the use of conventional two-implant overdentures was among the topics discussed.¹

In a comprehensive lecture during that special ADEA meeting, Dr. Jocelyne Feine, director of graduate programs in dental sciences at McGill University Faculty of Dentistry, provided “the data necessary to support the predictability” of the conventional two-implant overdenture procedure. She reviewed the possible effects on the patient’s general health, oral function and overall satisfaction, as well as the cost-effectiveness of the dental professional. No angle was left unaddressed; the only issue remaining at this time is the immediate overall cost of the treatment modality to the patient.”¹

This might explain why only about 2% to 4% of people who could benefit from implants have undergone the placement procedure. Keep in mind that about 40% of the people who wear dentures have an income less than \$40,000 per year.

¹ Sadan A. Implant dentistry and the standard of care in dental education. *Quintessence International*. May 2005. Volume 36, Issue 5. www.quintpub.com

With Denture Comfort, denture wearers of any age—regardless of whether they have a normal or thin ridge—can experience healthier and better looking smiles with comfortable and fully functioning dentures. After undergoing the Denture Comfort procedure, patients will be able to keep their dentures in place while sleeping, brush them in the morning and treat them like natural teeth. They’ll be able to laugh and smile and eat their favorite foods with confidence, not concern. Denture Comfort will provide them with substantial relief from the pain and discomfort they previously endured with their ill-fitting dentures, while stimulating the jawbone so less bone is lost. The dentures will fit more comfortably and properly support the facial features that were previously lost.

About Dentatus USA Ltd.

The Atlas narrow-body implants and the Denture Comfort procedure are proprietary products of Dentatus USA, Ltd. The manufacturing facility is located in Stockholm, Sweden, where the company was originally founded in 1930. Acquired by Bernard Weissman in 1988, research, development and distribution for the Americas is located in New York City. Mr. Weissman is the founder and former owner of Whaledent International. He is the holder of more than 200 patents worldwide and an assistant clinical professor of dentistry at New York University. Dentatus is known as a worldwide leader in the design and manufacture of dental products and is proud to offer dentists a variety of patented innovations that enhance the quality of their patients' health and lifestyles.

For more information about the Atlas Denture Comfort procedure, visit www.DentureComfort.com, or call Nita Weissman at 1-800-323-3136.

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