

**ATLAS
Narrow-Body
Implants**

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**Frequently Asked Questions about
Denture Comfort™**

Q. What are the short- and long-term problems associated with dentures?

A. Dentures made to fit the upper or lower jaw in time lose their intimate fit due to bone resorption (shrinkage). This allows the loose denture to move about, creating discomfort and ultimately abrasions and sores. This painful condition eventually causes further shrinkage of the bone and an inability to chew and properly digest food.

Q. What are some of the solutions that are available today?

A. An implant retained denture, for those who can afford the high cost of conventional implants (only 2% to 4% of the US population), is the most common solution using O-ring connectors with a metal housing. Unfortunately, people with ridge resorption may not be candidates for this type of procedure. Other techniques utilize a “bar and clip” technique and magnet attachments.

Atlas® Implants utilizing the Denture Comfort™ procedure is a highly affordable, non-invasive technique offering a more stable, comfortable and accessible treatment modality and are often the only solution for people who lack bone volume, have insufficient space between the jaws or have physical health and financial limitations.

Q. What is an implant-retained denture?

A. This is a denture that is supported, stabilized and otherwise held into place by dental implants that have been inserted into the jaw. These procedures are very predictable, which is why the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is recommending that mandibular dentures be retained by implants.

Q. Who is candidate for the Denture Comfort procedure?

A. Eight out of 10 denture wearers have problems with their dentures. So, almost all denture wearers will be perfect candidates for Denture Comfort, regardless of age, whether or not they have a thin ridge, or their medical/dental history.

Q. Is the procedure painful?

A. No. Local anesthetic is used during the short procedure and the gum tissue does not have to be cut open or stitched. So, the Denture Comfort procedure is relatively non-invasive and patients will not have pain during the procedure—and only sometimes, a day of soreness after.

Q. How long has the Denture Comfort system been used?

A. FDA approval for Atlas Implants is founded on clinical research dating back to 1993. The Denture Comfort procedure has been in use since 2000.

Q. How successful is this procedure?

A. The Denture Comfort procedure was developed in conjunction with world-renown researchers at the New York University College of Dentistry Department of Implant Dentistry. Atlas Implant procedures to support dentures have been shown to have “an immediate occlusal and function with a high survival rate of implants 94.1% and prostheses 100%.” (ref #69)

Q. What are the benefits of the Denture Comfort procedure in terms of esthetics, oral health and nutrition?

A. Those patients who choose Denture Comfort experience an enhanced ability to chew, as well as an improved appearance because their cheeks and lips are better supported by their denture teeth. So, they’ll look better and have more confidence, as well as maintain a healthier diet.

Q. How will Denture Comfort affect one’s overall health?

A. Maintaining a healthy diet is hard for people who cannot chew their food properly and therefore ensure the proper nutritional intake. With Denture Comfort, their dentures will fit perfectly and comfortably, so they’ll be able to eat what they want, when they want, without concern about being able to chew and/or dislodging your dentures.

Q. Will Denture Comfort stop the ridge from resorbing?

A. Yes. Resorption slows when the ridge of the jaw is stimulated by implants acting as natural tooth roots. The TUF-Link™ silicone liner inserted in the base of the denture also slows the process because patients will no longer have the pressure of hard acrylic rubbing against their ridge.

Q. Will insurance cover the procedure?

A. Some insurance companies cover implants, but most do not. Dentures and relines are usually covered. Insurance policies should be reviewed to see what is actually covered.

Q. Why is Denture Comfort less expensive than other implant procedures?

A. Denture Comfort doesn't require an invasive surgical procedure and, instead, can be completed in less than 1 hour. What's more, because fewer pieces and parts are necessary for relining and attaching to the denture, patients can realize significant cost savings. There are also fewer required follow-up appointments.

Q. What is the healing time?

A. Since Denture Comfort is a non-invasive procedure (ie, no cutting open of the gum tissue), there is no actual healing time. After the procedure, the implants are immediately affixed to the denture. It's recommended to allow the gum tissue to adjust for a few hours and the only discomfort patients may experience is a slight, temporary soreness.

Q. Will Denture Comfort patients be able to eat their favorite foods again?

A. Yes. The Denture Comfort procedure will hold their dentures securely in place so they can eat what they want, when they want, usually within a day or two.

Q. Are adhesives needed to hold dentures in place after the Denture Comfort procedure?

A. No. Denture Comfort will keep dentures in place by attaching them to ultra-narrow dental implants that become part of the jaw. This provides denture retention and stability without the use of adhesives.

Q. Should dentures be removed at night?

A. Not necessarily. With traditional dentures, patients may be instructed to remove them at night and place them in a container of water by their bed so that the gum tissue could "rest." With Denture Comfort, the cushioning silicone liner grips around the ultra-small dental implants, so there's no need to remove dentures at night.

Q. How should dentures be cleaned?

A. A denture should be cleaned two to three times a day to prevent accumulation of plaque, calculus (tartar) and stains. First, rinse away loose foods particles with running sink water. Using a soft nylon brush with denture toothpaste or cleaners, scrub all surfaces gently; dentures may break if dropped on a hard surface, so brush over a water-filled sink or a towel. To prevent a build-up of odors caused by absorption of fluids or bacteria, or to remove deeper stains from the denture teeth, soak dentures in a denture-cleaner solution for 30 minutes each day and then rinse with water.

Q. Can dentures be placed in boiling water to clean and sterilize them?

A. No, absolutely not! Dentures will warp and no longer fit properly, even if they're retained with the Denture Comfort procedure. If dentures must be left out of the mouth, be sure to keep them moist in room temperature water.

Q. In addition to cleaning dentures, what else can be done for oral home care?

A. Each time dentures are removed for cleaning, use a clean finger or toothbrush to massage the upper and lower gums to stimulate circulation in those areas. Brush the tongue and palate every morning with a soft nylon bristle brush. There are also tongue-cleaning instruments that can be of assistance.

Q. How often should new dentures be fabricated?

A. Well-made dentures are very durable, but they're not indestructible and they will not last forever. Good care will extend their life and maintain their appearance. Regularly scheduled annual visits to your Dentist are recommended; patients with the Denture Comfort procedure should have the Tuf-Link silicone liner replaced at that time.

Q. Can any medications affect the fit of my dentures?

A. Yes. There are more than 500 medications—such as blood pressure medications, decongestants, anti-depressants, and others—that can cause a dry mouth by reducing saliva production. Adequate saliva is extremely important for people who wear dentures because saliva prevents gum irritation by keeping things lubricated between the soft tissues and the denture base. So, patients should tell their dentists about all medications they're taking and ask for treatment recommendations if they're experiencing dry mouth.

Q. Is there any relationship between dentures that don't fit properly and oral cancer?

A. Loose dentures can cause sore spots when the hard denture base acrylic rubs against the gums, and this may lead to pain and infections. These chronic irritations, if left untreated, could develop into oral cancerous lesions. Denture wearers should have an oral cancer screening performed by their dentist at least once a year.

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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