

**ATLAS  
Narrow-Body  
Implants**

Dentatus AB:  
+46-8-546 509 00

Dentatus USA:  
212-481-1010  
800-323-3136

**Fast Facts about Tooth Loss, Dentures & the  
Implant-Supported Dentures**

Twenty-five percent (25%) of all adults aged 60 years and older have lost all of their teeth. *1999-2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*

More specifically, 20.5% of adults in the U.S. aged 65 and older have lost all of their natural teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease. *2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*

Loss of all teeth causes disability for most people who wear conventional dentures because they have difficulty performing two of the essential tasks of life, eating and speaking. *Feine, Jocelyne S, Carlsson, Gunnar E. Implant Overdentures: The Standard of Care for Edentulous Patients; Quintessence Publishing 2003*

Only 22% of older persons are covered by private dental insurance. As a result, dental care is unreachable for many older people living on a fixed income. *Vargas CM, Kramarow EA, Yellowitz JA. The Oral Health of Older Americans. Aging Trends; No. 3. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2001.*

There are about 40 million people in the US that are missing their back teeth; 10 million people are completely without any upper teeth; and the edentulous population (without any teeth at all) totals 20 million people. *DiMatteo A, "Are Dental Implants Your First Choice?" Inside Dentistry, March 2006.*

Fifteen percent (15%) of low-income adults (ie, less than 100% of the FPL) have lost all of their teeth compared with only 5% of people with higher incomes (ie, more than 200% of the FPL). *1999-2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*

Specifically, of those in the U.S. population who are aged 65 and older and have lost all of their natural teeth, 35.9% has an annual income of less than \$15,000; 25.3% has an annual income between \$15,000 and \$24,999; the annual income of 18.6% is between \$25,000 and \$34,999; 11.8% has an annual income between \$35,000 and \$49,999; and only 6.7%

has an annual income of \$50,000 or more. *2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*  
Difficulty with relaxation, pain and distress, and avoidance of going out are associated with tooth loss and/or wearing dentures. *Jones JA, Orner MB, Spiro A, Kressin NR: "Tooth loss and dentures: patients' perspectives." International Dental Journal, 2003, 53, 327-334.*

Fourteen percent (14%) of people with less than a high school education are completely without teeth, compared with 9% of people who completed high school and only 4% of people with more than a high school education. *1999-2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*  
Or, broken down differently, of those adults aged 65 and older who have lost all of their natural teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease, 41.1% have less than a high school education, and 23.2% have a high school education or general equivalency diploma. Also, 15% of these people have some post high school education, while 7.1% are college graduates. *2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*

Complete and partial tooth loss is associated with reduced physical, psychological, and social function and as well as chewing ability; increased disability and handicap; and potential detriment to overall health. *Jones JA, Orner MB, Spiro A, Kressin NR: "Tooth loss and dentures: patients' perspectives." International Dental Journal, 2003, 53, 327-334.*

As people loose teeth over time, their intake of nutritious foods decreases. *Nowjack-Raymer RE, Sheiham A. Association of edentulism and diet and nutrition in US adults. J Dent Res 82(2):123-6, 2003.*

Thirteen percent (13%) of current smokers are completely without teeth, compared with 8% of former smokers and 5% of people who had never smoked. *1999-2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*

By 2050, the US population that is older than 65 years of age will increase to 48 million people. *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)*  
It has been shown that the intake of specific foods that are rich in dietary fiber and nutrients known to have anticarcinogenic and other positive health effects is lower among denture wearers than among people with all of their teeth. *Nowjack-Raymer RE, Sheiham A. Association of edentulism and diet and nutrition in US adults. J Dent Res 82(2):123-6, 2003.*

According to Carl E. Misch, studies demonstrate that complete tooth loss is associated with illness; 17% of edentulous people take medication for gastrointestinal disorders. In addition they require 17% more medications than people the same age who have their teeth. *DiMatteo, Allison M. Are Dental Implants Your First Choice? Inside Dentistry, March 2006*

Narrow-body implant-supported removable dentures offer significant advantages to many people, such as more affordable cost; great support of the cheeks and lips for a nice appearance; easier and simpler oral home care; and reduced procedure time. *Rossein KD:*

*Alternative treatment plans: implant supported mandibular dentures. Inside Dentistry, July/August 2006.*

The surgical placement of implants is increasingly becoming a standard treatment option for general dentists, and patient demand is the biggest reason that general dentists are exploring the surgical option. However, the cost to practitioners [for conventional implants] remains high, both in terms of education and equipment needs. “*Incorporating Implants.*” *Matt Schlossberg, Academy of General Dentistry.*

[www.agd.org/library/2004/july/schlossberg.asp](http://www.agd.org/library/2004/july/schlossberg.asp)

According to world renowned dental clinician and educator Gordon Christensen, DDS, there are numerous simple implant restoration systems, as well as courses about how to use them, on the market. So, there is no reason not to include surgical placement of implants in the practice. “*Incorporating Implants.*” *Matt Schlossberg, Academy of General Dentistry.* [www.agd.org/library/2004/july/schlossberg.asp](http://www.agd.org/library/2004/july/schlossberg.asp)

Thirty percent (30%) of all cosmetic surgical procedures performed in 2004 by members of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons were performed on the face (eg, eyelid surgery, nose reshaping, forehead lift, etc). *American Society of Plastic Surgeons.* Ninety-five percent (95%) of all minimally-invasive procedures performed in 2004 by members of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons were performed on the face (eg, chemical peel, laser hair removal, soft tissue fillers, microdermabrasion). *American Society of Plastic Surgeons.*

Only a small percentage of people who’ve lost their teeth and who might benefit from implants ever have them placed. *Rossein KD: Retaining and stabilizing dentures with narrow-bodied implants. Dentistry Today, September 2005.*

Implant dentistry can—theoretically—date back to prehistoric man; fossil evidence suggests attempts to recreate teeth using substances such as stone, ivory and wood. *Choi R, Campbell SE. The growing popularity of mini-dental implants. Dental Equipment & Materials, September/October 2006.*

When the lower jaw and gummy ridge become thin and start to resorb, dentures won't fit properly and denture wearers could experience significant problems in terms of their dentures staying in place, being able to eat, and being able to speak. *Tai CH, Kim TS, Cho S-C, Froum S, Elian N, Tarnow D: "Immediate Loading of Small Diameter Implants in Severely Atrophic Mandibles: A Case Report." New York University College of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics and Implant Dentistry.*

Modern dental implants have been around for 40 years and numerous studies show success rates routinely above 97%. *Henry K, Q&A on the future of implants, Dental Equipment & Materials, September/October 2006.*

Studies suggest that patients enjoy a higher quality of life, greater self-confidence, and a better nutritional state when conventional dentures are replaced with implant-retained overdentures. *Henry K, Q&A on the future of implants, Dental Equipment & Materials, September/October 2006.*

People who've been told that they can't have implant-supported overdentures—which stay in place better and are actually better for overall health—may be able to undergo a no-surgery, small implant technique (Denture Comfort™) that will hold the denture in place and provide them with long-term denture comfort. *Kim BS, Yoon YE, Cho S-C, Elian N, Froum S, Tarnow DP: "Clinical Application of Transitional Implants as Long Term Support for Implant Supported Overdentures." New York University College of Dentistry, Department of Implant Dentistry.*

Denture wearers can avoid the need for surgery to change the lower jaw bone by having four small implants placed instead. *Tai CH, Kim TS, Cho S-C, Froum S, Elian N, Tarnow D: "Immediate Loading of Small Diameter Implants in Severely Atrophic Mandibles: A Case Report." New York University College of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics and Implant Dentistry.*

In 2002, 75% of both oral surgeons and periodontists were placing implants. *"Dental Implants: taking a bite out of the US market." Medical Industry Intelligence. September 2005;4-7. Millennium Research Group, Toronto, Canada.*

More and more general practitioners are placing implants. According to a 2003 implant survey by *Dental Products Report*, 9% of general dentists now surgically place implants, up from 4% in 1995 and 6% in 1999. *"Incorporating Implants." Matt Schlossberg, Academy of General Dentistry. [www.agd.org/library/2004/july/schlossberg.asp](http://www.agd.org/library/2004/july/schlossberg.asp)*

### ***Additional Information***

Fear of surgery, time constraints, inadequate bone, and cost are often cited as the reasons people don't choose to have implants to support their dentures.

It is estimated that in the industrial world alone, more than 240 million people lack one or more teeth. In Europe, an estimated 10% of the population is fully edentulous (missing all teeth), and 35% to 40% are partially edentulous. In the U.S., the 11% of the population is fully edentulous and 40% are partially edentulous.

The entire Denture Comfort™ procedure—which doesn't require surgery, doesn't require cutting the gum tissue, and doesn't cause bleeding—is accomplished with local anesthesia and is often completed in less than one hour.

It's been suggested that the disadvantages of traditional methods for replacing missing teeth—as well as the complexity of conventional implant treatments—may be why only 2% of the edentulous population are treated with implants.

Denture Comfort™ is an FDA market-approved solution to many denture problems that uses four ultra-small titanium implants to hold dentures in place.

Dental implants comprise the fastest growing segment of the global dental market, with a forecasted growth rate of about 18%. The fastest growth rate is seen in the U.S. market. For more information about the Atlas Denture Comfort procedure, visit [www.DentureComfort.com](http://www.DentureComfort.com), or call Nita Weissman at 1-800-323-3136.

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