

# Tooth Talk

## “Hey Doc, I can’t eat or talk with my full bottom denture! Can you help me? (Part 2)”

As I mentioned in Part 1 article, dental implants provide the best denture support and denture stability for those who struggle with their conventional full bottom dentures. There are different types of implant overdentures one can choose from and they provide varying degree of support and stability, all much better than the conventional full bottom dentures that rely only on suction.



1. Locator overdentures - As few as 2 dental implants in the lower jaw can help stabilize a full bottom denture. The caps inside the denture snap onto the head of the implants. This connection provide the support and the stability to the lower denture. The more the # of implants placed, the more stable the denture becomes. Since part of the denture is still supported by the gum tissue, it can lead to potential gum irritation. Therefore, the denture should be checked by the dental professional to ensure there is no on-going sore spots on the gum tissue. Locator overdentures usually require annual reline.

2. Bar overdentures -With more implants, such as 4 on the lower jaw, a metal bar can be fabricated to join the 4 implants together. The full lower denture then snaps onto the bar. This option is even more stable than the locator overdenture. The denture only sits on the bar and it doesn't touch any gum tissue.

3. Mini-implant overdentures- Dental implants that are less than 3mm in diameter are called mini-implants. Mini-implants are an excellent option for those patients who have undergone severe bone shrinkage. Due to their smaller sizes, mini-implants can be placed in areas with limited bone volume to help retain loose full bottom dentures. A minimum of 4 mini-implants in the lower jaw are required to support a full bottom denture. Again, the more the # of mini-implants placed, the more stable the denture will be.



Just like a conventional full bottom denture, an implant-supported full bottom denture needs to be removed at night and soaked overnight in water, half water/half Listerine, or in a denture cleanser. Brush the denture with a denture brush. A well-cared implant-supported lower denture should provide many years of service to the patient.

*\*Treatment in all the photos performed by Dr. Sun*

### ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



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