



**I WEAR A FULL LOWER DENTURE. WHAT ARE MY IMPLANT OPTIONS?**

Does your lower denture move around and hurt? Do you have to use messy adhesives? Is it just a nuisance? Implants are a wonderful way to stabilize or even eliminate your denture. There are multiple options to choose from, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. Here are a few options:

**I. Two implants with two attachments**

This scenario will provide you with a removable denture (called an overdenture) that does not slide all over your mouth. However, you will feel some forward / back motion. It is NOT indicated in a mouth that has poor bone structure in the back of the mouth. You should also be aware that even if you have good bone structure, this type of denture can actually increase the rate of bone resorption (disappearance) in the back of the mouth. The only real indication for this option is a cost factor: as far as implants go, this is the least expensive option.



**II. Four mini-implants with 4 attachments**

Mini-implants are a quick way to stabilize an existing denture in just one appointment, and even if you need a new denture, it will still speed up the process as compared to conventional implants. Mini-implants are also great for patients that cannot tolerate a more invasive surgery that is necessary for standard implant, or are on a tight budget.



**III. Four implants with 4 attachments**

This option will provide you with an overdenture that is much more stable than the two options above. Compared to the mini-implant option, these implants are larger and more robust, thereby increasing the chances of implant survival for a longer period of time. This does NOT mean that the removable rubber attachments will last longer, but the implants themselves can simply resist forces better.



- continued -



#### IV. Four implants with a supporting bar

This option is the “classic” treatment for full lower dentures. The 4 implants are “splinted” to each other by a bar which gives additional support to the implants themselves, and the denture itself is extremely stable. You will not feel any motion / rocking. This design has been around for many, many years due to its satisfaction with patients.



All the options listed above are removable: you will take your teeth out for hygiene. Below are “fixed” options, which means they stay put. As dentists, we can take them in and out, but you cannot.

Patients who undergo one of the two options describe in the following sections **LOVE THE RESULTS!** This is because the teeth are not removable, provide excellent esthetics, and are comfortable.

#### V. Hybrid bridges and Nobel Biocare’s Teeth-In-A-Day®

Although the picture to the right is for the upper jaw, it shows how these teeth are connected to implants. The main difference between the two options is the Teeth-In-A-Day® is designed to allow you to leave the office on the day of implant placement with temporary teeth physically connected to the implants, while hybrid bridges have a removable denture during the healing process. The cost to have the fixed (non-removable) temporary teeth can be quite significant.



Both options have a metal framework (which is not visible in the picture), with plastic teeth and plastic gum tissue wrapped around the framework. Should there be fractures or discoloration, the problems are easily corrected. Eventually the teeth and gum tissue will need to be replaced (7 to 12 years), and the cost for that is approximately that of two crowns.

Currently there are advances where the plastic is being replaced with Zirconia, which is a very strong porcelain.