

IMPLANT ASSISTED PROSTHESIS WITH LOCATOR ATTACHMENTS

An implant assisted prosthesis with locator attachments replaces all the teeth in a jaw. The locators attach the prosthesis to dental implants that have been previously placed in the jawbone. Usually 2 implants plus attachments are used in the lower jaw, and 4 in the upper jaw. The prosthesis is not fixed in the mouth, and is designed to be removed by the patient for oral hygiene purposes.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How would I benefit from an implant assisted prosthesis with locator attachments?

- An implant assisted prosthesis with locator attachments will have greater retention, chewing ability, and less bone shrinkage, compared to a traditional complete denture.
- If I have dry mouth, the difficulty with the retention and comfort of a traditional complete denture that I may be experiencing will be reduced.
- My lip will be better supported compared to an implant supported fixed bridge.
- The ability to remove the prosthesis makes cleaning easier, as well as any repairs should they be necessary.
- The lack of a palate greatly improves my sense of taste and texture of food.

2. What are my risks of an implant assisted prosthesis with locator attachments?

- If I have limited space in my mouth, the acrylic in the prosthesis covering the locator attachments may be thin, and will tend to chip.
- If after eating food gets trapped under the prosthesis, I will have to remove it to clean.
- The prosthesis is not solidly attached, and will tend to move up and down. If my tissue is fragile this may cause sore spots.
- The prosthesis still rests on my gum tissue, which can cause shrinkage of my jawbone, except in the areas where the implants are placed.
- While my ability to chew is better than a traditional complete denture, it will not be as strong as teeth connected directly to implants.
- The possible failure of an implant may necessitate its replacement, and subsequent modification of the prosthesis.

3. What are my alternatives to an implant assisted prosthesis with locator attachments?

- Leaving my mouth as it is, or a traditional complete denture.
- An implant supported prosthesis with a bar attachment.
- An implant supported prosthesis with locator attachments on a bar attachment.
- An implant supported fixed bridge.

4. What materials are in an implant assisted prosthesis with locator attachments?

- The base of the prosthesis is made of pink acrylic.
- The teeth are made of tooth colored acrylic or porcelain.
- Locator attachments are plastic, and the implants they attach to are made of titanium.

5. Are there any post-treatment limitations once I have an implant assisted prosthesis with locator attachments?

- The locator attachments will wear over a period of time and need replacing.
- Oral hygiene is essential, and the prosthesis may need to be removed at night in order to improve the health of the tissues and longevity of the locators.

