

Implant-Supported Denture



Overview

This is a full denture that attaches to implants in your jaw. It's most commonly used for the lower jaw, but it's used for the upper jaw, too.

Types of dentures

There are different types of implant-supported dentures, and they're attached in different ways. Some are removable. Some can only be removed by your dentist. A typical implant has a metal frame covered by a prosthetic that looks like natural gum and teeth. Prosthetics can be made of materials such as acrylic, metal and porcelain. Your dentist will tell you how many implants you need, and what materials are right for you.

Beginning the process

Getting an implant-supported denture involves more than one procedure. First, you get a temporary, removable denture that's made for your jaw. You'll wear this so your dentist can make sure it's a good fit. Then, you'll have a surgery to place implants in your jaw. They'll need to heal for several months. You'll wear a removable denture during this time.

Final steps

Once the implants fuse to your bone, you'll have another surgery to expose the heads of the implants. Caps are put on them to help your gum tissue heal around them. A few weeks later, the caps are replaced with abutments. These will snap into the denture.

Denture

Finally, you'll come back for more visits as your new denture is created and adjusted. And you'll be taught how to care for your mouth and your new denture. Ask your dentist if an implant-supported denture is right for you.