

Removable Dentures vs. Implant supported Fixed Teeth

1. What are Removable complete dentures?



2. What are Implants supported fixed teeth?



3. Difference between Removable Dentures & Implant supported Fixed Teeth?

Sr no	Points of Consideration	Removable Dentures	Implant supported Fixed Teeth
1	Chewing Efficiency 	Less than half in comparison with fixed teeth solutions	100% chewing efficiency
2	Food Intake 	Restricted due to chewing difficulties, resulting in nutrition related issues	Normal... the person is able to have his food exactly like a person with natural healthy teeth.

3	<p>Enjoyment of food</p> 	<p>True taste, flavor and smells of food are not perceived. Detection of temperature variations in food is also altered... eg. while having hot tea and cold ice-creams</p> <p>Chewing awareness is very low</p>	<p>Perception of true taste, flavor, smells and temperature changes of food are unaffected</p> <p>Chewing awareness is the same as with natural healthy teeth</p>
4	<p>Speaking / Singing</p> 	<p>Compromised in the initial stage... however, with passage of time, patients get used to dentures. However, loose dentures create problems for speech. Many singers have stated that they find it difficult to sing with dentures on.</p>	<p>Normal... the person is able to speak & / or sing exactly like a person with normal healthy teeth.</p>
5	<p>Bad Breath (Halitosis)</p> 	<p>Incidence is very high... even in patients whose dentures are kept clean and hygienic</p>	<p>Low incidence... if good oral hygiene is maintained</p>
6	<p>Comfort</p> 	<p>Poor... a significant percentage of denture wearers don't use them due to various reasons... some use them only for cosmetic reasons</p>	<p>Excellent... comparable to the comfort of having healthy, natural teeth.</p>
7	<p>Pains, sores & ulcerations</p> 	<p>Very high incidence... ill fitting dentures are invariably associated with all these problems</p> <p>Denture pressure effects can cause pain in relation to a nerve of the lower jaw called the mental nerve.</p>	<p>Very low incidence. Patients maintaining good oral hygiene have very few problems as these.</p>
8	<p>Cosmetic Factors</p> 	<p>Gives only a moderately acceptable solution with respect to appearance</p>	<p>Offers various options where excellent esthetic solutions can be given to the patient</p>

9	<p>Condition of the mouth and face with advancing age</p> 	<p>Dentures turn ill-fitting, slippery and painful... cause denture sores, infections etc.</p> <p>Due to lack of proper bone stimulation from the presence of teeth / implants, muscles of chewing and facial expression are in turn affected... leading to unfavorable changes in facial contours.</p>	<p>Can be maintained in excellent condition with periodic maintenance measures.</p> <p>Maintenance of muscles of chewing and facial expression. A sound, healthy bone structure is vital for intact overlying facial muscles. By preventing facial bone loss, dental implants maintain the integrity of facial muscles.</p>
10	<p>Condition of the jaw bones</p> 	<p>Gradual atrophy (deterioration & loss of bone) sets in and bone loss progresses turning the dentures loose and ill-fitting. The ill fitting dentures in turn accelerate the bone loss.</p>	<p>Fixed artificial teeth held in place with the help of natural teeth (as is the case with crown & bridgework) or with implants, help in reducing the rate of bone loss / atrophy.</p>
11	<p>Poor gums & bone condition</p> 	<p>Removable dentures will not work in such patients. Even if patients are given dentures, they don't wear them due to several problems arising from their ill fitting status</p>	<p>Dental implants are the only option available in these situations</p>
12	<p>Facial Appearance with advancing age</p> 	<p>The supporting bones shrink and the dentures turn ill fitting. The patient also develops a "collapsed face" giving an aged look</p>	<p>Supporting bone contours are maintained... helps maintain a youthful appearance. Dental implants work as well as natural teeth in maintaining bone contours.</p>
13	<p>Effects on Existing Teeth (in case of partial removable dentures)</p> 	<p>Partial dentures tend to exert unfavorable pressures on adjacent teeth -> can initiate problems esp. dental decay and gum disease</p>	<p>Have only favorable effects on adjacent teeth... contributes to a boost in stability and overall health of adjacent teeth as they are relieved of unwanted pressures</p>

<p>14 Food debris lodgement</p> 	<p>Ill fitting partial and complete dentures cause food trapping in relation to dentures which in turn causes bad-breath and infections. At times, patients are forced to remove them after every meal to clean them properly, in order to avoid problems.</p>	<p>Chances of food trapping under fixed bridges are very low. They are designed to prevent food lodgement and to facilitate proper cleaning under the fixed prosthesis.</p>
<p>15 Denture clasps (hook-like metallic / acrylic portions of the denture) which aid in retention of the denture</p> 	<p>The clasps can cause damage to adjacent teeth and also create provisions for food lodgement. Some of the clasps turn irritating to the gums and cheeks causing ulcerations and have to be removed -> loosening of the denture</p> <p>There have been several of instances where people who have accidentally swallowed their dentures have had to be operated to remove the prostheses from their bodies.</p>	<p>No clasps and hooks... very smooth prosthesis margins given a feel of natural teeth in every sense.</p> <p>No fear of dangers from dislodgement and swallowing in the normal course.</p>
<p>16 Physical activities such as swimming & intensive sporting activities</p> 	<p>Swimming and intensive sporting activities are often nightmares for denture wearers... they can get displaced or even thrown out of the mouth any time during the activity!</p>	<p>Person feels as comfortable as a person having normal healthy teeth in all kinds of physical activities</p>
<p>17 Maintenance & Care</p> 	<p>Have to be removed and brushed outside the mouth at-least twice a day using various denture care aids. Should ideally <u>not</u> be worn while sleeping. Whenever the dentures are not worn, they should be kept moist (either wrapped in moist cotton or put in water mixed with denture cleanser kept separately in a glass)</p>	<p>Maintenance and care is quite the same as is the case with natural teeth. There is no question of removing them and keeping them outside the mouth.</p>
<p>18 Mobility in function</p> 	<p>Most dentures move or get displaced while chewing / speaking / singing, even with the use of denture adhesives</p>	<p>They function just as healthy natural teeth without any mobility, whatsoever.</p>

19	<p>Interpersonal relations... esp. among couples</p> 	<p>Compromised relationships & intimacy - both psychologically & physically</p>	<p>Interpersonal relationships and intimacy between couples are totally unaffected.</p>
20	<p>Self Esteem & Self Confidence</p> 	<p>Generally a lot lower than in persons with fixed dentition.</p> <p>Patients generally feel insecure as dentures are very often sources of discomfort in various ways... especially ill fitting, mobile dentures</p>	<p>High levels of self esteem and self confidence</p> <p>Improved psychological health. Having dental implants is like having a new set of natural teeth. With all the comfort of eating, talking, and socializing without the fear of embarrassment, the individual's self image is tremendously enhanced.</p>
21	<p>Costs</p> 	<p>Relatively very low when compared to fixed prostheses.</p>	<p>Quite high in comparison with removable prostheses.</p>