**Subject prosthodontics**

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**OVERDENTURE**

Dentures are removable dental appliances designed to replace some or all of the teeth in a dental arch. When an individual loses their teeth, their jawbone remodels and shrinks over time. This can make it difficult for their denture to fit snugly and comfortably. Dentists found that by attaching the denture to either the remaining teeth in the mouth or to dental implants, they could better stabilize it. This appliance is called an overdenture.

## ****Benefits of Overdentures****

An overdenture is a complete or partial denture that sits on top of or is attached to underlying tooth structures or dental implants. According to a study in the [**Journal of Oral Research and Review**](http://www.jorr.org/article.asp?issn=2249-4987;year=2015;volume=7;issue=1;spage=16;epage=21;aulast=Samra), overdentures can reduce shrinkage of the jawbone and redirect forces and pressure in the mouth, helping the dentures stay stable. For patients with dental-related conditions, such as [**cleft palate**](https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/conditions/cleft-lip-palate/what-happens-in-cleft-palate-repair-0815), oligodontia (absence of more than six teeth in primary, permanent or both types of teeth), cleidocranial dysostosis (abnormal development of bones in the skull and clavicle area) and Class III occlusion, overdentures may be especially useful.

In general, overdentures provide improved function and retention when compared to conventional dentures, which may become unstable over time or [**require refitting**](https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/cosmetic-dentistry/dentures/all-about-relining-dentures-). Overdentures, which are made from acrylic, can help preserve the surrounding bone and ensure that the patient has an appliance that will last. Like other dentures, overdentures are removables.