

December Ask The Dentist:

Dear Dr. Winter, I have top and bottom dentures that are held in with implants. I have 2 implants for the top and 2 implants for the bottoms. The top denture has cracked 3 times and has been repaired at a cost of almost \$300 each time. The dentist blames my bite for them cracking and says the only way to correct the problem is to put more implants in on top and a new denture to correct the bite. What do you think? I can't afford these repairs!

Dear Robert, your dentist is correct. 2 implants is never advised to support an upper denture. You need additional implants for support and probably a metal reinforced implant overdenture. Upper dentures cover the entire palate and whenever you chew it creates spreading forces that will lead to cracks down the middle of the denture. Having two implants leads to rocking. If you draw a line across the two implants it's like a teeter tater where the denture can rock forward and backward over this pivot line. You need more implant support, possible grafting to have enough bone and most likely a new denture.

Thank you for your response Dr. Winter but if I can't afford more implants can these be taken out so I can just have a regular denture again? These rock and make me miserable. Thank you!

You can ask your dentist if the implants can be put to sleep (covered up with your skin and the attachments removed), and the denture relined but I highly recommend you add more implants to prevent bone loss and improve chewing throughout your life. Even if you can only afford to add one implant per year it's a great investment in your ongoing health!

With 6 implants you can even get a fixed denture that you don't remove. More implants also affords you the option of removing all the plastic

covering the roof of your mouth so you can taste your food again. The more spread out the implants across your entire ridge, the more support and stability you will get with your implant overdenture.

We invite you or any of our readers to come in for a new patient comprehensive examination and x-ray visit. Please call our office at 414-464-9021 to schedule and let them know you read about us on Hometown Publications.

You can see more information about our practice at WWW.WINTERDENTAL.COM for examples of our dentistry, videos and photos of the procedures we offer. For access to Dr. Winter's articles go to the website, press: publications type in Username: visitor and Password: smile These articles highlight Dr. Winter's philosophy of "Upgradeable Dentistry" which is finding the right treatment for everyone based upon their personal and financial goals. You can also see Dr. Winter's November Dentistry Today article featuring fixed teeth on implants with Dr. Winter on the cover.

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