

Ask the Dentist June 17, 2011 attention Paul Schulteis

Hi Dr. Winter, I got dentures about 2 years ago and they have never fit correctly. My upper teeth measure approximately 1/4-1/2 of an inch over my bottom dentures. I will never understand why they did this. I went to a dentist about this problem and he wants to grind my dentures. I'm truly unable to see how this will help. My question is this: how should I evaluate a dentist's ability to correct my problem? Thanks
Charlene

Dear Charlene, I am sorry you are having problems. I can't tell you why your dentures were made the way they were as I don't know what you started with. I would recommend a second opinion before anyone grinds on your dentures. The second dentist that wants to simply adjust them doesn't sound like he is addressing your chief complaint.

I would look up the I.C.O.I. the International Congress of Oral Implantologists for a Diplomate, the AAID or American Academy of Implant Dentists, the AGD or Academy of General Dentistry for a Master or a Prosthodontist in your state as they all have more training with dentures and implants and may be able to solve your problems. I am a Diplomate in the I.C.O.I. and Master in the AGD and both are awards given for rigorous work in these fields.

Dentures can be made with an overbite if someone had a severe overbite when they had their natural teeth. So when you go to the next dentist, bring them photos of when you had your teeth. That will help them to recreate what you had initially or at least help explain why you haven't met with success. It is too bad you waited 2 years to seek help with your problem and you should have brought this to the dentists' attention right away so they could have helped you sooner.

It is possible you will need some bone removed from your upper jaw to allow the denture to be brought back to solve

your cosmetic issues or the lower teeth may need to be moved forward to decrease this overbite-or both!

That being said, the best choice is to **never** remove bone for dentures and to use this bone to place dental implants so that you can have a fixed bridge, eliminate your denture and have teeth that come out of the gum and bone at a natural angle. This will improve chewing, speech and esthetics! If finances are an issue we do Upgradeable Dentistry to allow you to achieve the smile of your dreams at a pace you are comfortable with financially and emotionally. You can read about this at WWW.WINTERDENTAL.COM

I do wish you the best of luck. Dr. Rick and Dr. Bruce
Richard Winter D.D.S. M.A.G.D. D.I.C.O.I.
Master Academy of General Dentistry
Diplomate International Congress of Oral
Implantologists
Dr. Bruce Winter
Board M.A.T.C.