

BONE LOSS AROUND MANDIBULAR IMPLANT SUPPORTED OVERDENTURES. A SEVEN YEAR FOLLOW UP

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The number of implants required to stabilize an overdenture has always been a question worth addressing, particularly when economic issues are of concern. Four implants have been used successfully to support a mandibular overdenture, however the type of attachment used may affect the outcome of implant survival and bone anatomy around the implants.

Materials and methods: Eight patients were chosen. All patients were completely edentulous, with their maxillary arches restored with conventional dentures. The mandibular arch was restored with a metal reinforced acrylic resin overdenture supported by four implants.

The implants were placed at the lateral and first premolar areas (Implant direct, Legacy II). Four patients received low profile attachments (Locator Abutment, Implant Direct, Legacy II) (fig 1) and four patients received ball attachments (Ball Abutment, Implant Direct, Legacy II). Over the next 7 years annual bone measurements were taken by measuring from the implants apex to the level of the bone. implant stability was also checked and recorded by placing the smart peg and using ISQ measurements (Ostell).

Results: using independent t test, bone loss around distal implants in both groups were significant especially in the locator group. The stability measurements showed no statistical significance over the course of 7 years.

Conclusion: Long term follow up on mandibular overdentures supported by four solitary implants, regardless of the attachment, have shown good implant stability, however, significant bone loss around the most distal implants is to be expected.

KEYWORDS: over denture, 4 implants, locator, ball abutment

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INTRODUCTION

Complete edentulism remains to be a commonly occurring health issue. The conventional treatment with complete dentures has always been associated with a number of functional, esthetic and psychological problems. A common complaint of complete denture wearers, especially with the mandibular denture, is denture movement, probably due to low stability and retention¹. The stabilization of mandibular dentures with dental implants has been a common practice for the past 20 years². Two implant overdentures have now been recommended as the minimum standard of care for prosthetic rehabilitation of completely edentulous mandibular arches as per the McGill consensus statement³.

The number of implants required to stabilize an overdenture has always been a question worth addressing, particularly when economic issues are of concern.

The number of implants supporting a mandibular overdenture have ranged from one to four implants. Several authors have argued that two implants with solitary ball abutments are enough to retain and stabilize an overdenture. They are also less technique sensitive and more economical⁴⁻⁷.

However, it should be noted that when only two implants are used, the degree of overdenture movement can be greater, resulting in higher need for maintenance, such as relining and cap renewal, than that needed when a greater number of implants are used⁸. Therefore, increasing the number of supporting implants was recommended by some authors, especially in cases with increased occlusal loads, the need for higher retention and when the implant lengths are less than 8mm or with a width less than 3.5 mm⁹.

Four implants have been used successfully to support a mandibular overdenture, however the type of attachment used may affect the outcome of implant survival and bone anatomy around the

implants. Ball and Locator attachments have always been the first attachments of choice in implant overdentures due to their simplicity, and cost effectiveness¹⁰⁻¹².

In another context, implant success depends greatly on implant stability, which can be measured by several tools and techniques¹³. One of these techniques is the resonance frequency analysis (RFA). RFA is a simple, non-invasive procedure consisting of a transducer that emits a certain signal that causes the implant to vibrate. The resistance of the implant to this vibration is recorded by the intended device and configured into implant stability quotient (ISQ) values. ISQ is then measured on a scale within 0–100, 100 being the highest, and 0 being the lowest stability values¹⁴. The OSSTELL ISQ, produced in 2009, is one of the most commonly used RFA devices. Osstell findings are considered reliable and sufficient to assess the status of implant success and survival¹⁵⁻¹⁷.

The null hypothesis to be challenged in this study is that there is no difference between locator and ball attachments, regarding bone loss, and implant stability, when used in mandibular overdentures supported by 4 implants, over the course of seven years.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Eight patients were chosen, male, with an age range of 45-50 years. All patients had no systemic disease or bony malformations that could affect implant placement. All patients were completely edentulous, with their maxillary arches restored with conventional dentures. The mandibular arch was restored with a metal reinforced acrylic resin overdenture supported by four implants.

The implants were placed at the lateral and first premolar areas (Implant direct, Legacy II). Four patients received low profile attachments (Locator Abutment, Implant Direct, Legacy II) (fig. 1) and four patients received ball attachments (Ball

Abutment, Implant Direct, Legacy II) (fig 2). After second stage surgery and healing abutment insertion, steps of overdenture construction were commenced including primary alginate impressions, secondary rubber base addition silicone impressions, metal try-in of overdenture framework, face bow records and jaw relation records and finally artificial teeth try-in.

Then, overdenture pickup and delivery was performed in the following manner: relieving the areas opposite the attachments was done and rubber dam pieces and pickup spacers were placed around the attachments, followed by filling the relieved areas with cold cure acrylic and picking up the housings while the patient is biting softly in centric

relation position. In the locator group, the black processing caps used in the pickup procedure were replaced with orange medium retention caps. (fig 3 and 4)

Digital periapical x-rays were taken of each implant using an acrylic film holder for standardization. Bone measurements were taken by measuring from the implants apex to the level of the bone both mesial and distal to the implant and calculating the average. X-rays were repeated on annual basis for a period of seven years. (fig 5 and 6) Bone loss was later calculated by subtracting the annual measurements from the first base line measurement taken when loading the overdenture was done. In addition, during the same period,



Fig. (1) Intraoral picture of four mandibular implants with locator attachments.



Fig. (3) Extraoral picture of retentive cap insertion in the locator housing.



Fig. (2) Intraoral picture of four mandibular implants with ball attachments.



Fig. (4) Extraoral picture of retentive cap in the ball housing.

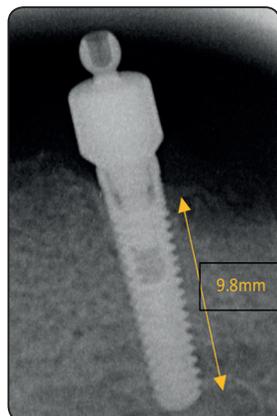


Fig. (5) : Bone height measurement for implant with ball attachment.

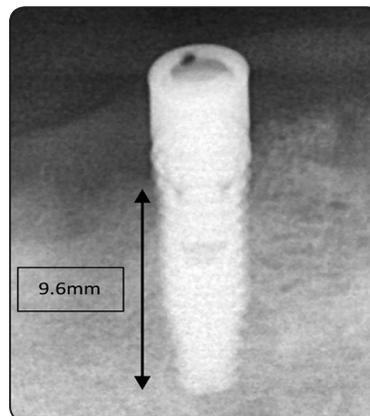


Fig. (6) : Bone height measurement for implant with locator attachment.

implant stability was also checked and recorded by placing the smart peg and using ISQ measurements (Ostell), the average of the buccal, lingual, mesial and distal measurements was calculated and recorded. (fig 7)

The collected data was statistically analyzed by Microsoft Excel® 2016*, Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS)® Ver. 24**, and Minitab***® statistical software Ver. 16. Data were revealed as mean and standard deviation further statistically analysis.

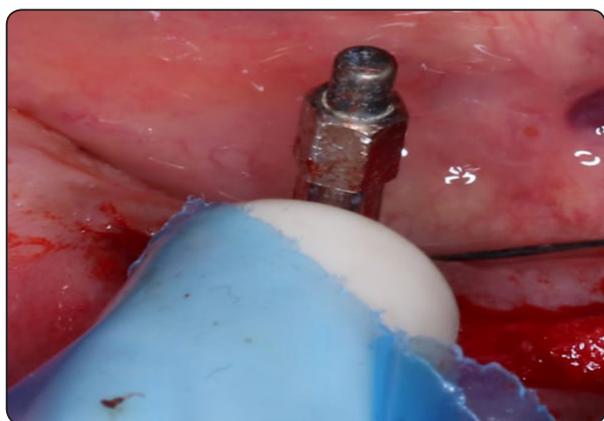


Fig. (7): Smart peg inserted on implant for measurement of stability.

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RESULTS

A) Amount of Bone Loss

Regarding amount of bone loss for locator and ball attachment group, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.01 \pm 0.00) and (0.00 \pm 0.00) respectively at base line which revealed insignificant different using independent t test as P-value $>$ 0.05. While after one year, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.032 \pm 0.01) and (0.02 \pm 0.00816) respectively which revealed insignificant different using independent t test as P-value $>$ 0.05. After two years, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.051 \pm 0.01) and (0.03 \pm 0.00816) respectively while after three years, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.079 \pm 0.01) and (0.045 \pm 0.01291) respectively. After four years, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.083 \pm 0.02) and (0.06 \pm 0.01826) respectively. Five years afterwards, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.19 \pm 0.02) and (0.0725 \pm 0.02062) respectively. After six years, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.56 \pm 0.052) and (0.3275 \pm 0.0515) respectively. Finally, after seven years, mean \pm standard deviation was (0.87 \pm 0.069) and (0.6525 \pm 0.069115) respectively. Significant difference was revealed after two, three, four, five, six and seven years using independent t test as P-value $<$ 0.05, all listed in table (1) and showed in figure (8).

TABLE (1): Description and Comparison between Locator and Ball Attachment regarding Amount of Bone Loss during Seven Years Follow Up:

	Locator Attachment		Ball Attachment		P-value (1)
	M	SD	M	SD	
Baseline	.000	0.00	.0000	.00000	1.000(ns)
One Year	.032	0.01	.02	.00816	0.1123(ns)
Two Years	.051	0.01	.03	.00816	0.0174*
Three Years	.079	0.01	.045	.01291	0.0059*
Four Years	.083	0.02	.06	.01826	0.014*
Five Years	.19	0.02	.0725	.02062	0.0002*
Six Years	.56	0.052	.3275	.051545	0.0007*
Seven Years	0.87	0.069	.6525	.069115	0.0043*
P-value (2)	<0.0001*		0.0678(ns)		

M; Mean, SD; Standard Deviation, P; Probability Level

*significant difference

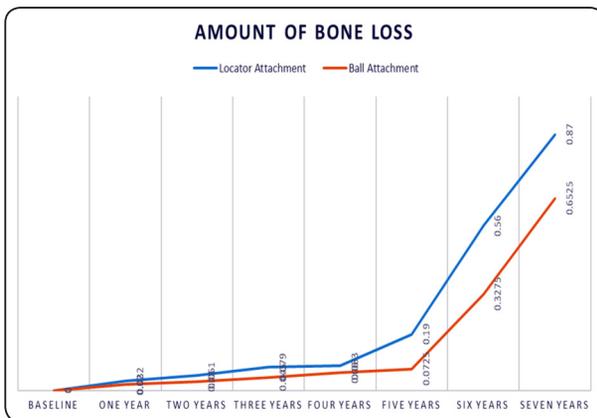


Fig. (8): Line Chart revealing Description and Comparison between Locator and Ball Attachment regarding Amount of Bone Loss during Seven Years Follow Up

Using One Way Analysis of Variance (One Way ANOVA) followed by Tukey’s post hoc test for multiple comparisons for definite time intervals, it was revealed that mean difference of each interval in locator attachment was higher than ball attachment among seven years follow up with standard error of difference (0.02314) and (0.2157) respectively with degree of freedom ⁽²⁴⁾, all listed in table (2).

B) ISQ Stability Measurements:

Regarding implant stability for locator and ball attachment group, mean ± standard deviation was (93±8.81) and (82.5±6.45) respectively at base line. While after one year, mean ± standard deviation was (87.65±6.42) and (81.25±5.85) respectively. After two years, mean ± standard deviation was (80.94±8.93) and (81±6.48) respectively while after three years, mean ± standard deviation was (79.18±7.36) and (80.5±5.97) respectively. After four years, mean ± standard deviation was (77.93±8.97) and (80±6.48) respectively. Five years afterwards, mean ± standard deviation was (77.52±8.5) and (79.25±6.39) respectively. After six years, mean ± standard deviation was (76.54±7.21) and (78.5±5.91) respectively. Finally, after seven years, mean ± standard deviation was (75.48±8.77) and (76.25±5.56) respectively. Insignificant difference was revealed for all follow up periods between both groups using independent t test as P-value > 0.05, all listed in table (3) and showed in figure (9).

Using One Way Analysis of Variance (One Way ANOVA) followed by Tukey’s post hoc test for multiple comparisons for definite time intervals, it was revealed that mean difference of each interval in locator attachment was higher than ball attachment among seven years follow up with standard error of difference (5.779) and (4.345) respectively with degree of freedom ⁽²⁴⁾, all listed in table (4).

TABLE (2): Amount of Bone Loss Change between Different Time Intervals regarding Locator Attachment and Ball Attachment Group:

Test details	MD of Locator Attachment Group	SE of Locator Attachment Group	MD of Ball Attachment Group	SE of Ball Attachment Group	DF
Baseline vs. One Year	-0.03200	0.02314	-0.02	0.2157	24
Baseline vs. Two Years	-0.05100	0.02314	-0.03	0.2157	24
Baseline vs. Three Years	-0.07900	0.02314	-0.045	0.2157	24
Baseline vs. Four Years	-0.08300	0.02314	-0.06	0.2157	24
Baseline vs. Five Years	-0.1900	0.02314	-0.0725	0.2157	24
Baseline vs. Six Years	-0.5600	0.02314	-0.3275	0.2157	24
Baseline vs. Seven Years	-0.8700	0.02314	-0.6525	0.2157	24
One Year vs. Two Years	-0.01900	0.02314	-0.01	0.2157	24
One Year vs. Three Years	-0.04700	0.02314	-0.025	0.2157	24
One Year vs. Four Years	-0.05100	0.02314	-0.04	0.2157	24
One Year vs. Five Years	-0.1580	0.02314	-0.0525	0.2157	24
One Year vs. Six Years	-0.5280	0.02314	-0.3075	0.2157	24
One Year vs. Seven Years	-0.8380	0.02314	-0.6325	0.2157	24
Two Years vs. Three Years	-0.02800	0.02314	-0.015	0.2157	24
Two Years vs. Four Years	-0.03200	0.02314	-0.03	0.2157	24
Two Years vs. Five Years	-0.1390	0.02314	-0.0425	0.2157	24
Two Years vs. Six Years	-0.5090	0.02314	-0.2975	0.2157	24
Two Years vs. Seven Years	-0.8190	0.02314	-0.6225	0.2157	24
Three Years vs. Four Years	-0.004000	0.02314	-0.015	0.2157	24
Three Years vs. Five Years	-0.1110	0.02314	-0.0275	0.2157	24
Three Years vs. Six Years	-0.4810	0.02314	-0.2825	0.2157	24
Three Years vs. Seven Years	-0.7910	0.02314	-0.6075	0.2157	24
Four Years vs. Five Years	-0.1070	0.02314	-0.0125	0.2157	24
Four Years vs. Six Years	-0.4770	0.02314	-0.2675	0.2157	24
Four Years vs. Seven Years	-0.7870	0.02314	-0.5925	0.2157	24
Five Years vs. Six Years	-0.3700	0.02314	-0.255	0.2157	24
Five Years vs. Seven Years	-0.6800	0.02314	-0.58	0.2157	24
Six Years vs. Seven Years	-0.3100	0.02314	-0.325	0.2157	24

MD; Mean Difference, SE; Standard Error of Difference, DF; Degree of Freedom

TABLE (3): Description and Comparison between Locator and Ball Attachment regarding ISQ Stability Measurements during Seven Years Follow Up:

	Locator Attachment		Ball Attachment		P-value (1)
	M	SD	M	SD	
Baseline	93.0000	8.81	82.5000	6.45497	0.0664(ns)
One Year	87.65	6.42	81.2500	5.85235	0.1910(ns)
Two Years	80.94	8.93	81.0000	6.48074	0.9895(ns)
Three Years	79.18	7.36	80.5000	5.97216	0.7533(ns)
Four Years	77.93	8.97	80.0000	6.48074	0.6303(ns)
Five Years	77.52	8.50	79.2500	6.39661	0.6737(ns)
Six Years	76.54	7.21	78.5000	5.91608	0.6087(ns)
Seven Years	75.48	8.77	76.2500	5.56028	0.8263(ns)
P-value (2)	<0.0652(ns)		0.8981(ns)		

M; Mean, SD; Standard Deviation, P; Probability Level

*significant difference

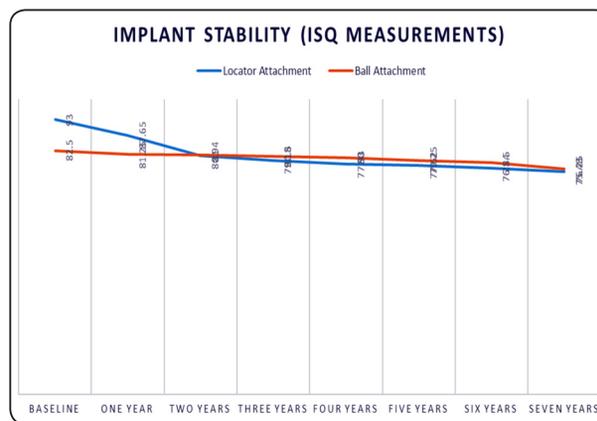


Fig. (9): Line Chart Description and Comparison between Locator and Ball Attachment regarding ISQ Stability Measurements during Seven Years Follow Up

TABLE (4): Amount of ISQ Stability Measurements Change between Different Time Intervals regarding Locator Attachment and Ball Attachment Group:

Test details	MD of Locator Attachment Group	SE of Locator Attachment Group	MD of Ball Attachment Group	SE of Ball Attachment Group	DF
Baseline vs. One Year	5.350	5.779	1.250	4.345	24
Baseline vs. Two Years	12.06	5.779	1.500	4.345	24
Baseline vs. Three Years	13.82	5.779	2.000	4.345	24
Baseline vs. Four Years	15.07	5.779	2.500	4.345	24
Baseline vs. Five Years	15.48	5.779	3.250	4.345	24
Baseline vs. Six Years	16.46	5.779	4.000	4.345	24
Baseline vs. Seven Years	17.52	5.779	6.250	4.345	24
One Year vs. Two Years	6.710	5.779	0.2500	4.345	24
One Year vs. Three Years	8.470	5.779	0.7500	4.345	24
One Year vs. Four Years	9.720	5.779	1.250	4.345	24
One Year vs. Five Years	10.13	5.779	2.000	4.345	24
One Year vs. Six Years	11.11	5.779	2.750	4.345	24
One Year vs. Seven Years	12.17	5.779	5.000	4.345	24
Two Years vs. Three Years	1.760	5.779	0.5000	4.345	24
Two Years vs. Four Years	3.010	5.779	1.000	4.345	24
Two Years vs. Five Years	3.420	5.779	1.750	4.345	24
Two Years vs. Six Years	4.400	5.779	2.500	4.345	24
Two Years vs. Seven Years	5.460	5.779	4.750	4.345	24
Three Years vs. Four Years	1.250	5.779	0.5000	4.345	24
Three Years vs. Five Years	1.660	5.779	1.250	4.345	24
Three Years vs. Six Years	2.640	5.779	2.000	4.345	24
Three Years vs. Seven Years	3.700	5.779	4.250	4.345	24
Four Years vs. Five Years	0.4100	5.779	0.7500	4.345	24
Four Years vs. Six Years	1.390	5.779	1.500	4.345	24
Four Years vs. Seven Years	2.450	5.779	3.750	4.345	24
Five Years vs. Six Years	0.9800	5.779	0.7500	4.345	24
Five Years vs. Seven Years	2.040	5.779	3.000	4.345	24
Six Years vs. Seven Years	1.060	5.779	2.250	4.345	24

DISCUSSION

Restoring the edentulous mandible with implant supported overdentures has proven to be a successful treatment option that provides the patient with a stable, retentive denture, with better esthetics, function and patient satisfaction^{18,19}.

Implant retained mandibular overdentures on two solitary implants is the treatment of choice for many practitioners. It is not only less time consuming and cheaper, but it also allows movement of the denture in the distal extension areas, reducing the loads on the implants and transferring part of the stresses onto the posterior alveolar ridge⁷. However, this consequently generates the need for frequent maintenance due to the inherent movement of the denture^{20,21}.

Four solitary implants can provide a more stable and retentive denture, with less movement during function. This however, is expected to produce more load on the implants, which can be seen in the results of the present study, where there is statistically significant bone loss surrounding the distal implants after seven years of function regardless of the type of attachment used. This comes in accordance with other studies, that reported more bone loss with 4 implant overdentures when compared to two-implant overdentures, probably due to the cantilever-like effect exerted by the overdenture during function^{22,23}.

It is worth mentioning that this bone loss might have been less if the four implants were splinted by a bar, to allow distribution of forces between the implants^{24,25}.

The results of the current study have also shown that the bone loss with the locator attachment was higher than the ball attachment, which might be attributed to the fact that ball attachments allow more denture movement due to their nature^{26,27}.

The results have also shown that although bone loss surrounding the distal implants was significant, implant stability remained high as measured during

the follow-up intervals over seven years. This comes in accordance with many studies confirming the long-term success of implant overdentures irrespective of the type of attachment used^{7,28,29}.

CONCLUSION

Long term follow up on mandibular overdentures supported by four solitary implants, regardless of the attachment, have shown good implant stability, however, significant bone loss around the most distal implants is to be expected.

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