

# Mini Implants (Small Diameter Implants)

Conventional diameter dental implants are too large for the amount of bone you have available. You need more stability for your prostheses, and there are only three choices for a situation such as yours:

1. Stay “as you are,” using dentures or bridges similar to those you are now using.
2. Have bone grafted into your mouth from some other part of your body to provide enough bone for conventional implants. Usually, this operation requires:
  - a. A surgical procedure to transfer the bone to your mouth
  - b. A healing period
  - c. Placement of conventional-sized implants
  - d. Another healing period
  - e. Placement of the artificial teeth onto the implants
3. Placement of “mini” implants. These small titanium-alloy implants are about 1.8 mm in diameter. Regular implants are 3.25 – 6.0 mm in diameter. They are usually placed through your gums without an incision through the gums. The procedure to place them is usually relatively painless. These small implants are usually placed into service immediately.

Research on “mini” implants shows they are serving patients well; however, the first “mini” implants were cleared by the FDA in 1997, and continuing research is underway. With a few exceptions, we expect these implants to serve you well for at least several years.