## ADIN Implants Blog

## Molar Replacement Options: One Wide vs Two Narrow

Implants - Which Is Best?

Written by Dr. Nachum Samet | Feb 11, 2018 2:56:33 PM

For many years the gold standard for the

replacement of molars has been to fit wide

it is solid - wider implants seem to be more

diameter implants. While the reasoning behind

suitable for the restoration of a bigger teeth, the truth is that wider implants don't always offer the best solution for the patient.

A large number of patients with missing molars often present themselves with bone deficiency at the missing molar site, and herein lies the problem. In many such cases it just isn't possible to fit a wide implant into the area due to insufficient bone width. The standard approach in these cases is to widen the bone by performing a lateral bone augmentation procedure. Yet, while this

method is a well-trodden pathway that

enables a wider implant to be used, it isn't

always as easy and as straightforward as it

When a patient has a narrow ridge and a wide

implant is considered, four factors need to be

Extended treatment time - sometimes

augmented bone healing, before implant

additional three or more months for

Potential complications - risks such as

infection, exposure of the augmented

placement can occur.

 An additional surgical procedure, on top of the implant placement surgery.

looked at:

What do we mean?

sounds.

material and more. And finally...
Cost - as bone augmentation procedures are expensive, they are added to the overall cost of treatment.

Each one of these potential obstacles may be

overcome simply by using narrow implants.

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- will need to refer patients to other doctors.

  This means added inconvenience for the patient and of course... less business for the

referring dentist. So, any alternative that is

the dentist, has to be of great value to the

**Expelling the myths surrounding** 

or small diameter implants can help.

faster, reliable, and within the capabilities of

patient and dentist alike. This is where narrow

But that's not all... dentists need to remember

that if they do not perform these type of bone

augmentation procedures themselves, they

narrow dental implants

Narrow dental implants have been recognized as a valid and accepted treatment modality since the turn of the millennium and although they have been gaining popularity as a predictable and long lasting means of rehabilitating patients, many dentists are still hesitant to use them. The reason may lie in

the fact that the term "Narrow implants" itself

suggesting that these implants are somewhat

weaker than "regular" implants. However, the

truth is, that multiple articles published within

the last years prove that restorations held by

narrow implants - even in the molar area -

present excellent long-term success rates.

has a somewhat negative connotation,

## For example: in this 8 year study a total of 510 narrow dental implants were observed in 237 patients and out of these, only 3 implants failed, giving an overall survival rate of 99.4%.

In addition, further studies have also indicated

that narrow implants (those implants with a diameter of less than 3.5mm) could also be used to good effect for molar replacement in cases of moderate horizontal bone loss. These studies indicate that provided the implant is supplied by a company with a long history of successful use and the correct clinical procedures are followed, then Narrow implants are not only considerably stronger than one would imagine, but should also be the preferred choice.

How do narrow implants work in

Like natural molars which have larger crowns

with several roots, it is possible to place two

narrow implants side by side instead of one

supports two premolar sized crowns, instead

of one large crown as would be fabricated on

a single wide implant. Placing the two narrow

implants does not require bone augmentation,

thus saving time and hassle for the patient.

diameter implants are so strong?

In the past, companies created narrow

implants based on their existing implant

designs. This approach was found to be

maintaining both strength and durability.

fitted to smaller diameters while still

problematic, as certain designs could not be

When this approach changed, and companies

How is it that current small

wide implant. The two narrow implants

such cases?

## started designing narrow implants from scratch, they incorporated up-to-date mechanical concepts and designs to achieve strength and durability levels equivalent to

that of standard implants. So there should be

no surprise that current narrow implants

demonstrate such high mechanical

properties.

From a financial perspective, when calculating chair time and direct costs it is clear that the overall cost for the dentist is reduced when using the two narrow implant technique compared to the other alternatives. This cost difference can be transferred to the patients, who would also appreciate the saving. Let's not forget that this option is also less invasive and faster and as a result, patients may be more prone to agree to "close the deal".

So in conclusion...

Modern day narrow dental implants are stronger and longer lasting than their predecessors by design, allowing them to be

used in a multitude of clinical scenarios. As

such they allow a faster, reliable, and cost-

effective solution, not only when considering

molar replacement options, but also for whole

host of other implant-based restorations. For

further information on how our range of industry-leading, narrow dental implants can help talk to our expert team at Adin Dental

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