

Figure 2. Ball Abutments are threaded into the implants and torqued to 30 Ncm.

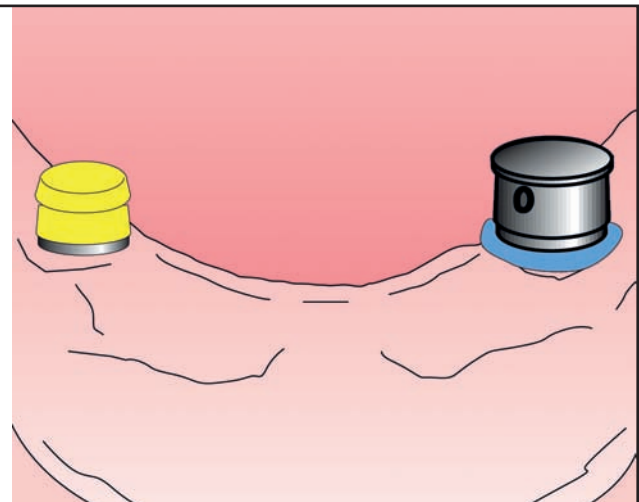


Figure 3. A Cap Attachment Transfer (left) and Housing (right) are placed onto each Ball Abutment and undercuts are blocked out with soft material.

the top of the implant. The 1.25 mm-diameter hex tool is placed in a properly calibrated torque wrench and used to screw the Ball Abutment into the implant and tighten to 30 Ncm of applied torque [Fig. 2]. The implant portion of the restoration is now complete.

The next step will be to process the Cap Attachments into the base of the patient's existing denture. Alternatively, Cap Attachments can also be easily incorporated into the baseplate of a new denture prior to processing. Cap Attachment Transfers are placed on the Ball Abutments in the patient's mouth, and Cap Attachment Housings are placed over them. Undercuts beneath the Cap Attachment

Housings are blocked out with soft utility wax or other material to prevent the ingress of acrylic during the pick-up procedure [Fig. 3].

The base of the patient's existing denture is carefully relieved above the locations of the Cap Attachment Housings [Fig. 4], and care is taken to ensure that the housings fit passively inside the base when the denture is placed in the patient's mouth. Autopolymerizing acrylic is placed into the relieved areas of the denture [Fig. 5], and the prosthesis is carefully positioned in the patient's mouth to pick up the Cap Attachment Housings [Fig. 6]. Adding lingual vents to the relieved areas of the denture is

Table 1. Guidelines for Implant-Retained and -Stabilized Overdentures

Requirements	Adequate residual ridge to support an overdenture
	Adequate bone volume to accommodate two implants at least 10 mm in length
	Ability and willingness to maintain oral hygiene
	Need for improved retention and lateral stabilization of tissue-supported denture
Cautions	Flat ridges that would cause loading of implant abutments during function
	Diseases or conditions that could adversely affect implant health and survival
	Poor bone quality that could compromise implant survival
	Implants that diverge more than 28° from each another