All-on-X Implants vs. Failing Overdentures: A Journey to Full-Arch Rehabilitation

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Pt:

61 y Male

CC: I am very embarrassed not having lower teeth on lower arch





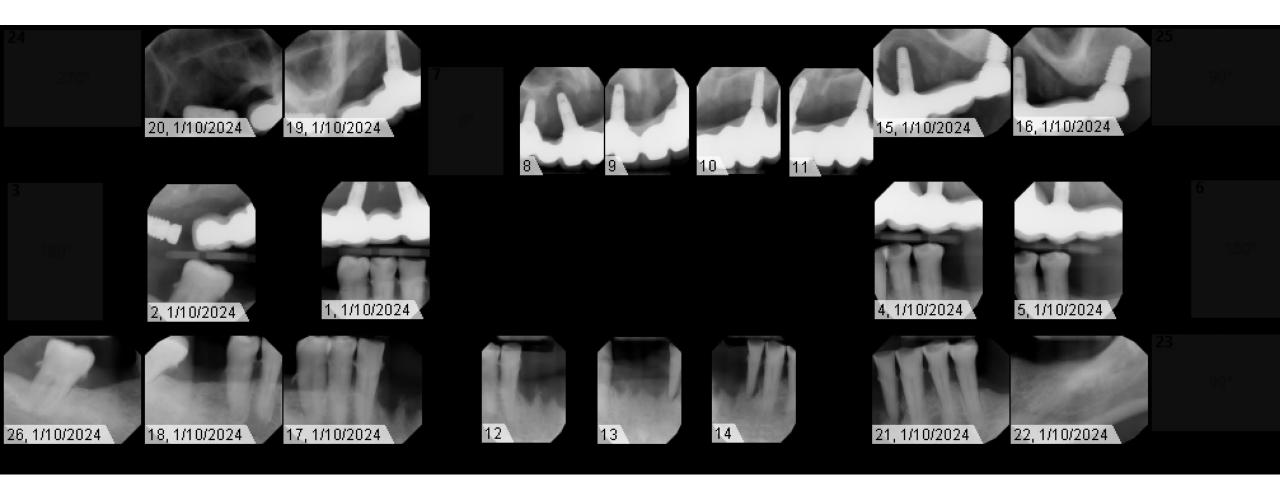




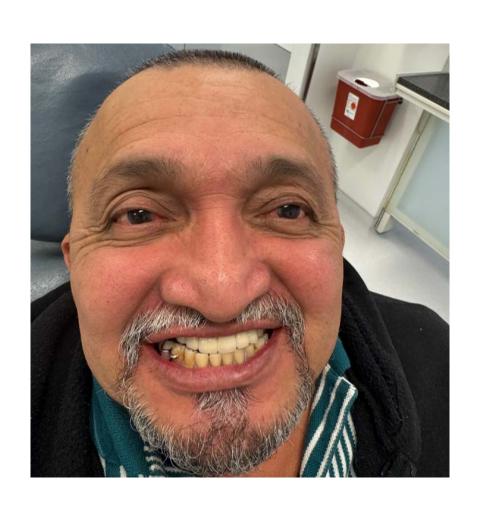






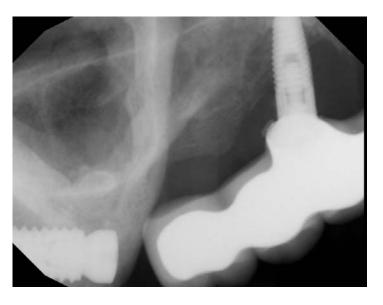


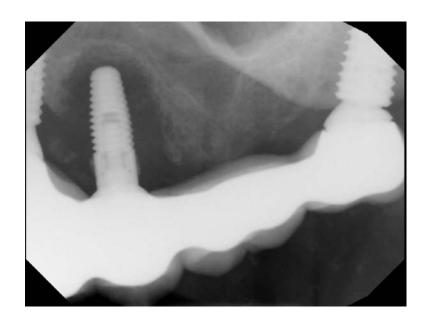
Lower RPD was delivered to address pt's CC



Failing implants







Treatment plan

- Explant the implants
- Deliver immediate denture

OKU Sutro Excellence Day Project Cover Sheet

Project Title

All-on-X Implants vs. Failing Overdentures: A Journey to Full-Arch Rehabilitation

Full name(s) and class year(s) of all project collaborators

Example: Jane Smith, DDS 2022; John Smith, DDS 2022 Farrah Ghafouri. DDS2025

Project Category

DDS/IDS - Clinical Awards: Removable Prosthodontics

Enter your abstract text here (max 300 words)

This ongoing case reflects the emotional and clinical complexities of full-arch rehabilitation in a patient with a history of implant-supported overdentures. The patient initially presented with missing lower anterior teeth and expressed deep concern about his appearance. As someone who works in a restaurant, he shared that he often wore a mask, not for health reasons, but to hide his smile. His words reflected not just physical discomfort, but emotional distress and social anxiety tied to his dental condition.

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A panoramic radiograph revealed a more serious issue. Three failing implants in the upper arch, which were part of a previously placed All-on-X overdenture. Delivering this unexpected news was difficult, especially considering the emotional and financial investment the patient had already made. Still, he was thankful that we identified the infection early and were able to offer a path forward.

We've since delivered a lower removable partial denture to restore his anterior esthetics and are in the process of planning for the surgical removal of the failing implants, followed by delivery of a full maxillary denture. Although the case is still in progress, the patient's relief and appreciation have been deeply moving. He told me, "At least now I know someone is finally helping me." Significance:

This case underscores the importance of patient-centered care, communication, and the emotional resilience required in managing complex prosthetic cases. It also highlights the value of timely diagnosis and the impact we can make by guiding patients through difficult transitions with empathy.

Acknowledgments:

I want to sincerely thank my faculty mentors for their ongoing guidance, our oral surgery team for their collaboration, and my patient for his honesty, trust, and courage in sharing his story.