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Dental Implants

### Expert Insights

Why One-Piece Implants are a Game Changer

### Dr. Ronald Petrosky, DDS

A trusted dentist specializing in precise, patient-focused dental implant solutions.



# DENTAL IMPLANT MAGAZINE

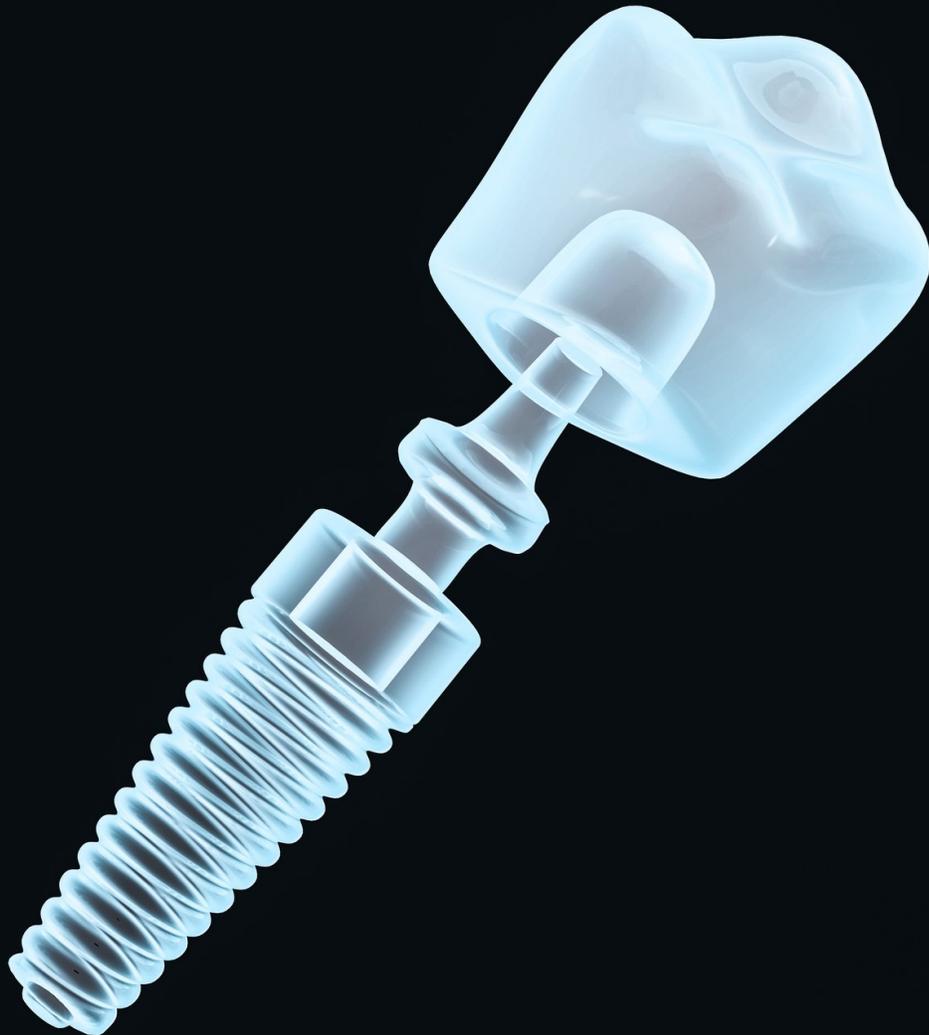
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# Insights from a 40-Year Implant Dentistry Veteran: Why One-Piece Implants Are a Game Changer



# Startling Facts About One-Piece Implants in Modern Dental Implantology

**Dr. Ronald Petrosky**

Did you know that despite more than four decades of advancements in implant dentistry, one-piece implants remain surprisingly underutilized in the United States? When many patients first hear about dental implants, they often associate them with the more common multi-piece systems like “all-on-4” or two-piece implants. However, a large portion of the dental community remains unaware or unfamiliar with the practical and minimally invasive one-piece implants that are steadily gaining traction globally. Despite their notable clinical advantages, these implants are not mainstream in the U.S., primarily due to entrenched commercial and educational politics.

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**Many patients have no idea what they're in for—they might research 'all-on-4' but don't realize that the one-piece implant protocol offers a much less invasive and patient-friendly alternative.**

This approach is particularly transformative for seniors and medically compromised patients who require gentler, staged treatments to ensure proper healing and integration. These implants enable patients to regain the function of biting and chewing almost like their natural teeth with minimal surgical trauma. Their design, including aggressive, sharp taper-shaped threads and integrated abutments, reduces complications like micro gaps and screw loosening that plague two-piece systems, making them a true game changer in implant dentistry.

# Overview of One-Piece Implants and Their Advantages in Dental Implant Procedures

## Minimally Invasive Approach and Patient Benefits

**One-piece implants are celebrated for their simplicity and patient comfort, requiring fewer surgical stages due to their integrated design. Unlike the conventional two-piece implants that involve placing an implant fixture followed by separate abutments later, one-piece implants combine these components into a single unit. This eliminates micro gaps that often provoke peri-implantitis and mechanical failures.**

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**You don't have to flap the gum much, if at all. The tapered design allows you to insert the implant with just one or two drills, often not drilling full depth.**

### **Dr. Ronald Petrosky**

This minimal invasiveness is crucial for patients with narrow bone ridges or on medications that complicate healing, enabling faster recovery and fewer complications. The bendable abutment option also provides flexibility to handle angulation challenges,

enhancing treatment versatility and outcomes. Patients benefit hugely — they can enjoy a fixed bridge that feels natural and stable, which restores not only dental function but also confidence and social interaction.

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**When you're done, you feel like you have your real teeth back, and your true personality can come alive.**

### **Dr. Ronald Petrosky**



# Comparing One-Piece Implants with Two-Piece Dental Implants

## Design and Functional Differences

The primary distinction between one-piece implants and traditional two-piece systems lies in the integration of the abutment. Two-piece implants require attaching an abutment after the implant fixture is placed, which can introduce mechanical weaknesses such as micro gaps. These gaps may lead to screw loosening, fractures, and peri-implantitis risks. In contrast, the one-piece implant has a single solid structure, combining implant, neck, and abutment in one.



**This design is huge. Less inventory, easier handling, and it reduces complications significantly.**

**Dr. Ronald Petrosky**

Functionally, this means fewer appointments, lower risk of screw-related failures, and the ability to use a minimally invasive surgical approach—benefits that enhance both dentist workflow and patient satisfaction. Moreover, the sharp, aggressive thread design of these implants allows better primary stability, especially in narrow or compromised bone ridges. Dr. Petrosky compares, “The taper of one-piece implants is nicer than any of the two-piece tapered implants I’ve used.” This helps in safer, more predictable implant placement, especially in anatomically sensitive locations.

# Expert Insights on the Growing Popularity and Challenges of One-Piece Implants

## Training and Adoption in the Dental Community

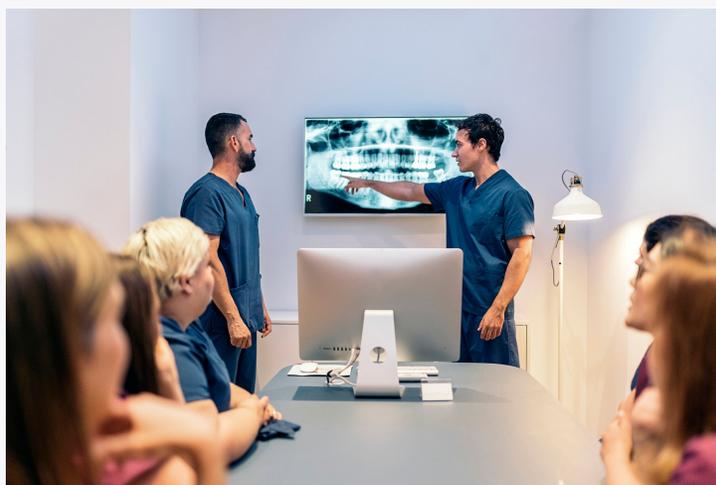
Although one-piece implants have been used internationally for years, their adoption within the United States is slow. Dr. Petrosky attributes this to a combination of political, educational, and commercial factors. Major implant manufacturers commonly favored by dental universities in the U.S. do not currently offer FDA-cleared one-piece implants. This restricts exposure and training for new implant dentists.

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Many doctors look at you blankly and ask, 'What's that?' when you mention one-piece implants.

**Dr. Ronald Petrosky**

The expert shares, "Those who have taken the training see that one-piece implants are practical, versatile, and an everyday solution." With growing awareness and evidence of successful case outcomes, the knowledge is spreading among dentists determined to offer their patients effective and minimally invasive options beyond traditional two-piece systems.





# Practical Applications: Treating Patients with Narrow Bone and Complex Cases

## Case Studies and Patient Outcomes

One-piece implants are particularly advantageous for patients with narrow bone ridges or medically complex profiles that challenge traditional implant protocols. Dr. Petrosky highlights the availability of mini and ultra-mini implants (as small as 2.0 to 3.0 mm in diameter) which allow placing fixed prostheses in cases where bone volume is limited.



**We treat patients who have lost bone due to aging or dental disease, but still want fixed bridges rather than removable dentures.**

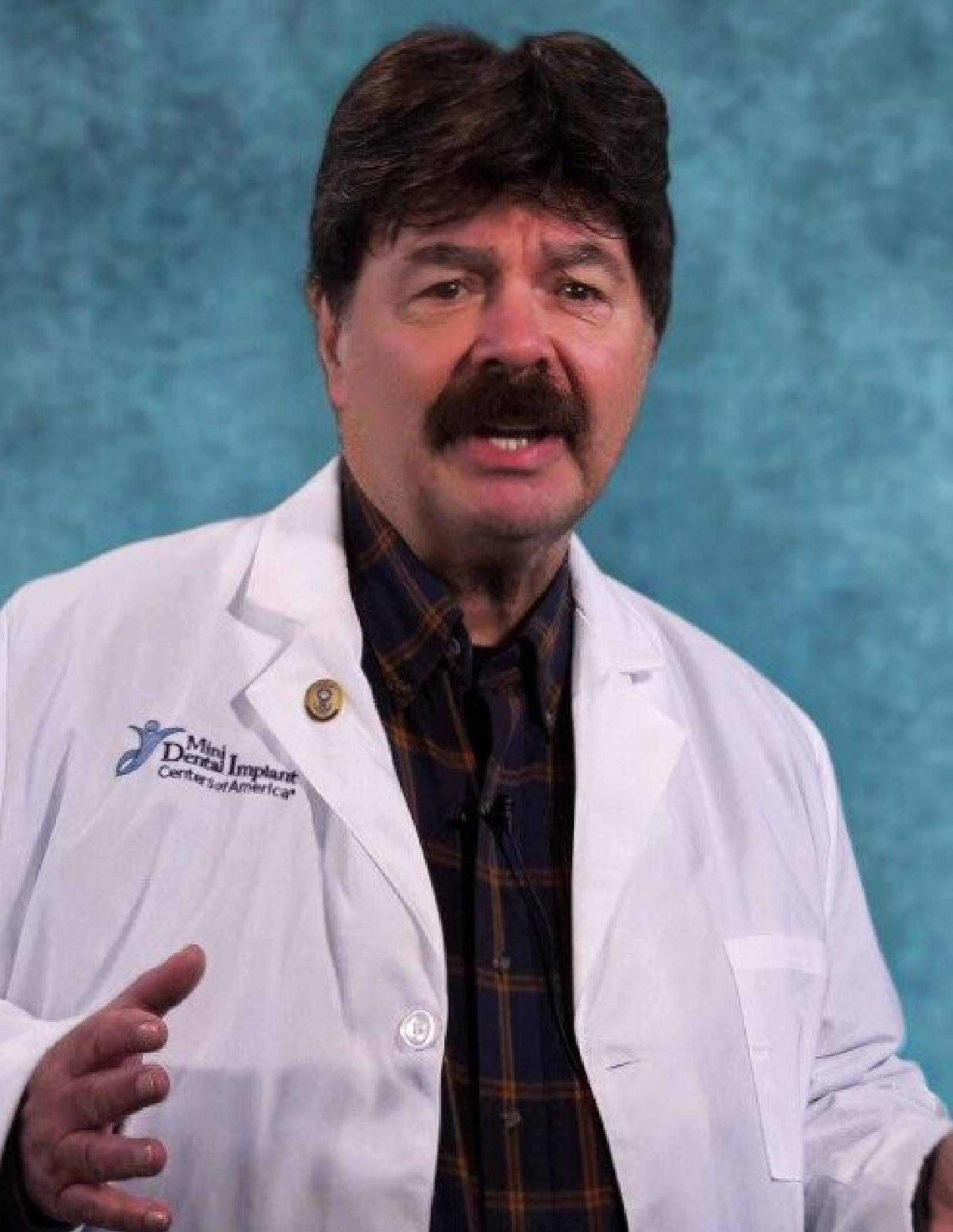
In many cases, eight or more mini implants can support a solid, fixed 10-unit prosthesis, restoring patient comfort and chewing ability. He recalls a recent case of a middle-aged man with severely compromised dentition who avoided social events and family gatherings due to low confidence. "Using the one-piece implant protocol, we helped him regain his smile and quality of life—he can now eat, smile, and enjoy social settings again." Such outcomes illustrate the profound impact on patient wellbeing beyond dental aesthetics.

## **Common Misconceptions and Challenges in Implant Dentistry**

A major hurdle for widespread acceptance of one-piece implants in the U.S. is political and commercial inertia. Leading implant companies that receive university grants promote their own two-piece implant lines, squeezing out alternatives. This exclusivity limits innovation and honest comparison in dental implantology. Dr. Petrosky observes, "Universities are often tied to major grant funding from companies like Nobel Biocare or Straumann, which don't promote one-piece implants." Meanwhile, countries like Israel, India, and Switzerland are more prolific users, advancing the science and availability of these systems internationally.

## **Overcoming Political and Commercial Barriers**

However, hopeful signs emerge from institutions like the One Piece Implant Institute, based in Michigan, working tirelessly to educate dental professionals and expand access. With time, this political landscape may shift, allowing patients wider choices and better outcomes through expanded use of one-piece implants.



# Actionable Tips for Dentists Interested in One-Piece Implant Protocols

## Best Practices and Do's and Don'ts

Do seek comprehensive training from experienced one-piece implant practitioners or recognized implant institutes to understand protocol nuances.

Do start with simple cases and use a staged approach for medically compromised or elderly patients to ensure healing and implant integration.

Don't attempt to place one-piece implants without understanding the importance of proper angulation, especially if using bendable neck varieties.

Do favor fixed prostheses over removable options where bone volume and implant number support it, maximizing patient satisfaction and function.

Don't rely solely on popular implant companies—explore and evaluate new technologies to offer your patients the best solutions available.

## What You'll Learn

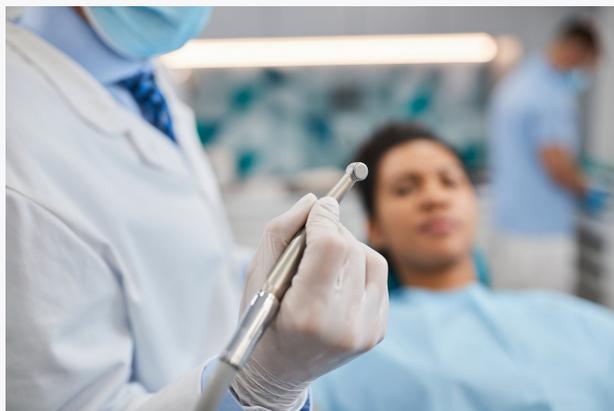
The design advantages of one-piece implants over traditional two-piece systems

How minimally invasive protocols improve patient outcomes

The political and commercial factors affecting implant dentistry adoption

Practical tips for dentists to implement one-piece implant techniques

Real patient case studies demonstrating quality of life improvements



## People Also Ask (FAQs)

### Is it true that Medicare now pays for dental implants?

Many patients wish they knew about the importance of choosing implant systems that minimize complications, the potential need for staged treatments, and the impact of bone quality on longevity and aesthetics.

As of now, Medicare generally does not cover dental implants as part of original Medicare. Some Medicare Advantage plans may offer limited coverage, but patients should verify individual plan benefits before proceeding.

### How much does a one-piece implant cost?

### What is the 3/2 rule for dental implants?

The 3/2 rule is a guideline in implant dentistry recommending three implants to support two teeth in prosthetic design, ensuring adequate distribution of biting forces and implant stability. This helps prevent overload and implant failure.

### What I wish I knew before dental implants?

The cost of a one-piece implant varies widely based on location, provider, and patient complexity but typically ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per implant, often less than two-piece systems due to reduced surgical steps and fewer components.



# Key Takeaways

One-piece implants simplify dental implant procedures with fewer components and less risk of complications.

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They offer a minimally invasive option ideal for patients with narrow bone or medical compromises.

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Despite their benefits, political and commercial factors have limited their adoption in the U.S.

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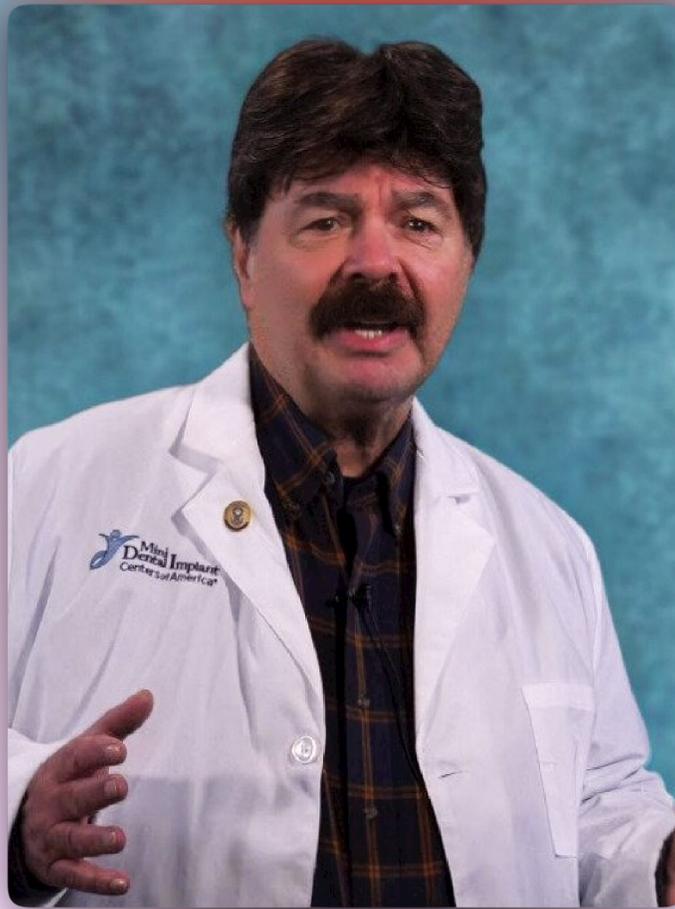
Proper training and experience are critical for successful outcomes with one-piece implants.

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Patients benefit from improved function, aesthetics, and quality of life with these implants.

## **Conclusion: Embracing the Future of Implant Dentistry with One-Piece Implants**

Dental professionals should embrace one-piece implant protocols to offer patients a less invasive, reliable, and effective restorative option—enhancing both clinical success and patient quality of life.



## Bio

Dr. Ronald P. Petrosky, DDS, MAGD, DICOI, DIAMDI is a leader in advanced dental implantology, known for his expertise in one-piece and minimally invasive techniques that prioritize patient comfort and lasting results. Guided by a philosophy that blends technical mastery with compassion, he is committed to simplifying complex procedures. Dr. Petrosky maintains board-certified distinctions through organizations such as the International Congress of Oral Implantologists and the Resnik Implant Institute, and continually invests in state-of-the-art technology to deliver tomorrow's dentistry today.