

The residual ridge

When these devices are incorporated next to a **free-end distal extension RPD**, the thrust of the functional **stress is directed onto the residual ridge**. Only minimal transfer of functional stress to the abutment teeth occurs. Since vertical and horizontal forces are concentrated on the residual ridge, **increased ridge resorption** frequently occurs. Relining of the free-end saddle area **must be done** when needed to prevent excessive ridge resorption.

Types of Stressbreakers:

1. Have a **flexible connection** between the direct retainer and the denture base:
 - **Simplest form** of stress relief is the **wrought-wire** retentive clasp
 - **Split bar major connectors**; example is the Ticonium "**Hidden-Lock**" design
2. Have a **movable joint** between the direct retainer and the denture base:
 - The "**DE**" hinge
 - The **Dalbo** attachment
 - The **Crismani** attachment
 - The **ASC-52** attachment

Note: When a stressbreaker **is placed** on the distal surface of a pontic, occlusal forces will tend to **unseat** the key from the **key-way**.