

IMMEDIATE IMPLANT PLACEMENT AND PROVISIONALIZATION—TWO CASE REPORTS

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Endosseous dental implants have traditionally been placed using a two-stage surgical procedure with a 6- to 12-month healing period following tooth extraction. In order to decrease healing time, protocols were introduced that included immediate implant placement and provisionalization following tooth extraction. Although survival rates for this technique are high, postoperative gingival shrinkage and bone resorption in the aesthetic zone are potential limitations. The two case reports described herein present a surgical technique for the preservation of anterior aesthetics that combines minimally invasive extraction, immediate implant placement, provisionalization, and the use of implants with a laser micro-grooved coronal design.

Learning Objectives:

This article describes the use of an immediate implant placement and provisionalization technique. Upon reading this article and completing this exercise, the reader should:

- Be aware of the clinical implications associated with an immediate implant placement and provisionalization technique.
- Recognize the role of implant design on overall aesthetic and functional success.

Key Words: immediate implant placement, provisionalization, minimally invasive

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Dental implants have been successfully used during the last 30 years to restore partially and fully edentulous patients.^{1,2} The traditional protocol recommended a 6- to 12-month healing period for the alveolar bone following tooth extraction, before placing an implant. In addition, a load-free healing period of 3 to 6 months was generally recommended for osseointegration to occur.^{3,4}

In an attempt to decrease this 9- to 18-month healing time, protocols were developed that suggested implant placement immediately following tooth extraction. In this regard, there has been an increasing interest in implant insertion into a fresh extraction socket, because this procedure has been shown to be a predictable treatment modality.^{5,8} The advantages of immediate versus delayed implant placement include a reduction in treatment time, fewer surgical interventions,^{9,10} and a decrease in surgical trauma to the tissues at the implant site.¹¹⁻¹³

Unpredictable gingival recession and crestal bone resorption are two disadvantages associated with immediate implant placement in the aesthetic zone. Continued bone and soft tissue loss may also result in exposure of the implant surface, resulting in a compromised aesthetic result following implant placement.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

Immediate provisionalization of dental implants enables the patient to avoid the psychological and physical discomfort of wearing a removable interim prosthesis.¹⁷ Critical factors for success of immediate restorations include: 1) initial implant stability; 2) elimination of macro-motion of the implant during initial healing; and 3) complete removal of excess luting agents following provisional cementation.^{18,20} With respect to soft tissue contours, the fixed provisional facilitates contouring the gingival tissue from the narrow cylindrical implant to the gingival form of a tooth as the implant emerges from the sulcus. Thus, several authors have stated that it is easier to



Figure 1. Case 1. Preoperative radiograph of the hopeless maxillary right central incisor with external root resorption.



Figure 2. Preoperative appearance of tooth #8(11) with a buccal fistula at the apex of the tooth.



Figure 3. Both a removable partial denture (RPD) and a crown form were prepared to provisionalize the area following tooth extraction.

achieve optimal sulcular form with a fixed provisional prior to definitive restoration.²¹

The following case presentations demonstrate an immediate implant and temporization protocol that follows the biological parameters for three-dimensional implant placement, along with grafting of the distance between the buccal plate and the implant.²² In both cases, implants with a laser micro-grooved gingival collar of 8 μ m and 12 μ m were used. These groove patterns have previously been shown in animal studies to selectively attach to soft and hard tissue, respectively.²³ The technique and implant design will be discussed, relative to implant success.

Case Presentations

Case 1

A 35-year-old non-smoking female patient in general good health and with no contraindications to treatment presented with a questionable maxillary right central incisor 10 years following traumatic injury. The discol-

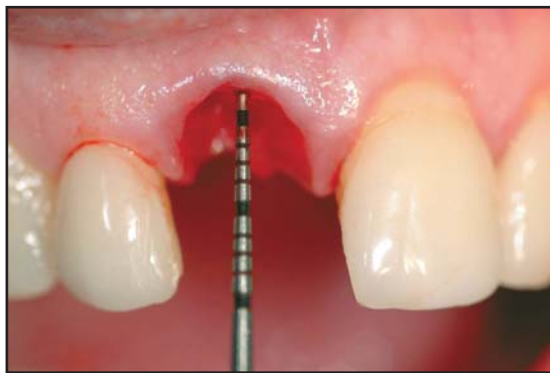


Figure 4. Atraumatic extraction of the right central incisor allowed the clinician to preserve the buccal plate and interdental papillae.

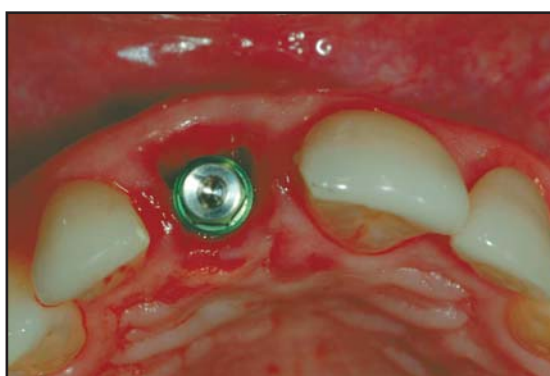


Figure 5. The implant was placed 3 mm from the buccal plate emerging toward the gingulum.

ored tooth exhibited external root resorption, Class II mobility, and was extruded (Figure 1). Clinical evaluation revealed a buccal fistula and exudate present at the apex of the tooth, and the tooth was diagnosed as hopeless (Figure 2). Treatment options were reviewed, and informed consent was obtained. Based on the patient's desire to reduce treatment time, it was decided to perform immediate implant placement with immediate provisionalization following tooth extraction.

A preliminary impression was made and diagnostic casts were fabricated with type IV dental stone (Die-keen, Heraeus Kulzer, Armonk, NY). A resin denture tooth with appropriate shape and shade was selected prior to tooth extraction. A removable partial denture was prepared in the event that the initial stability of the implant was insufficient to support a fixed provisional tooth (Figure 3).

Surgical Protocol

Following administration of local anesthesia (Lidocaine with epinephrine 1:100,000, Henry Schein Inc, Melville, NY),

atraumatic tooth extraction was accomplished without flap reflection to preserve the interproximal papillae and the remaining buccal and lingual plates of bone (Figure 4). Following socket debridement, an implant (3.4 mm \times 13 mm) was placed (Laser-Lok, BioHorizons, Birmingham, AL) according to the manufacturer's protocol and with reference to three-dimensional positioning. The implant showed adequate initial stability when placed with a torque driver at 35 Ncm. It had a laser micro-grooved collar, which was positioned with the 8- μ m grooves in soft tissue and the 12- μ m grooves in bone. The implant was placed 2 mm mesiodistally from the adjacent teeth, lingual to the buccal plate of the bone, toward the gingulum and with the implant abutment connection 3 mm apical to the anticipated gingival margin.²² The latter was determined with a surgical template that denoted the apical extent of the anticipated buccal margin of the restoration. In this position, the implant had a 3-mm distance between the implant and the buccal plate (Figure 5). A mineralized cancellous bone allograft (Puros 0.25-1 gm, Zimmer Dental, Carlsbad, CA) was placed between the buccal plate of bone and the implant in order to fill the space and maintain soft tissue contour. No attempt was made to advance the buccal flap to cover the graft material.

Immediate Provisionalization and Postoperative Care

A plastic cylinder was selected and prepared in order to receive the provisional restoration (Figure 6). The selected crown form (Bioform IPN, Dentsply Trubyte, York, PA) was relined intraorally with self-curing acrylic to ensure accurate fit and was cemented with temporary cement (Temp Bond, Kerr, Orange, CA). Centric and excursive contacts were eliminated and the patient was advised to avoid biting or chewing on the provisional crown. The patient was also instructed to rinse



Figure 6. A provisional abutment was prepared to facilitate placement of the provisional crown restoration.



Figure 7. Appearance of the provisional crown restoration in non-occlusion.

twice daily with 0.12% chlorhexidine and to avoid brushing the surgical area. The patient functioned with this provisional in non-occlusion for 6 months prior to delivery of the final implant restoration (Figure 7).

Restorative Phase and Follow-up Evaluation

Following 6 months of healing, the provisional crown was removed and the final ceramic abutment was torqued at 35 Ncm (Figure 8). An abutment level impression was obtained, and the definitive all-ceramic restoration was delivered two weeks later. The definitive restoration was cemented with a provisional cement (Temp Bond, Kerr, Orange, CA). The patient was examined at 3, 6, 12, 24, and 30 months post-cementation. The interproximal bone level showed no change from the time of implant insertion to 30 months postloading (Figure 9). The buccolingual level also remained stable over this period of time. The gingival height on the implant restoration was more coronal than that on the original tooth prior to extraction and more coronal than the gingival buccal margin of central incisor adjacent to the implant restoration. Moreover, the height of the buccal gingival margin continued to remain at the same level more than 2.5 years post-loading (Figure 10).

Case 2

A 29-year-old non-smoking female patient in good general health presented with periodontal-involved maxillary central incisors and the absence of the right lateral incisor #7(12), which was removed 10 years previously. The patient had been functioning with a ¾ chrome cobalt 3-unit fixed partial denture (FPD) to replace the missing lateral incisor for 7 years (Figure 11). Although no symptoms of active infection were evident during the clinical evaluation, the central incisors demonstrated advanced loss



Figure 8. Occlusal view of the definitive ceramic abutment. Note the aesthetic contour of the buccal gingiva.

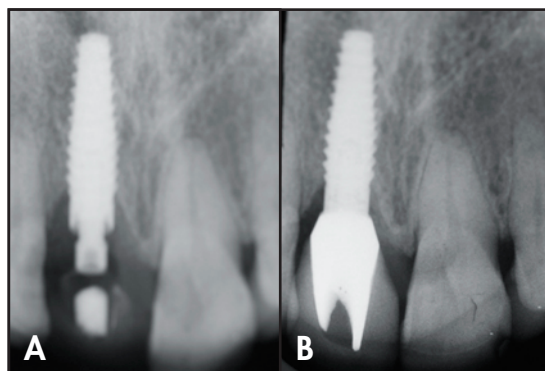


Figure 9A. Interproximal radiograph taken immediately following implant insertion. **9B.** Radiographic appearance 2.5 years postoperatively. Note the maintenance of the interproximal bone levels.



Figure 10. Postoperative appearance 2.5 years following restoration. Note the gingival margin on the implant is more coronal than that on the adjacent natural incisor.

of osseous support, exhibited Class II and Class III mobility, and displayed external root resorption radiographically (Figure 12). The central incisors were diagnosed as hopeless, and with informed consent, were extracted (Figure 13). An immediate implant placement and immediate provisionalization technique was selected. A ridge



Figure 11. Case 2. Preoperative appearance of the FPD from the right canine to the right central incisor.



Figure 12. Radiographic appearance of the 3-unit FPD from the maxillary right canine to the right central incisor.



Figure 13. The FPD was removed to demonstrate Class II and Class III mobility of the central incisors.

augmentation in the edentulous right lateral incisor area was also performed.

A preliminary impression was made, diagnostic casts were prepared, and a provisional restoration was fabricated for immediate provisionalization of implants #8(11) #9(21), and a cantilevered pontic on tooth #7.



Figure 14. The central incisors were extracted without flap reflection to preserve the soft tissue around the socket.

Surgical Protocol

Local anesthesia (lidocaine with epinephrine 1:100,000, Henry Schein Inc, Melville, NY) was administered and atraumatic extraction of the central incisor teeth was accomplished without flap reflection to preserve the interproximal papillae and the remaining buccal and lingual plates of bone (Figure 14). Following socket debridement, two implants (3.4 mm and 13 mm) with laser micro-grooved collars (Laser-Lok, BioHorizons, Birmingham, AL) were placed at sites #8 and #9. No attempt was made for primary closure of the flap to cover the graft. All implants were guided by the surgical template into an ideal prosthetic position, and primary stability was achieved. The implants were placed 2 mm from the adjacent teeth, 3 mm between implants, and with the implant platform 2 mm to 3 mm apical to the anticipated gingival margin. The implants were also placed so that they emerged toward the cingulum of the anticipated restorations, leaving a 3-mm to 4-mm distance between the implant and the buccal plate of bone. This space was filled with the mineralized cancellous bone allograft (MCBA) (Figure 15). During the surgical procedure, guided bone regeneration utilizing a graft of MCBA covered with an absorbable collagen membrane (Bio-Gide, Geistlich Biomaterials, Inc, Wolhusen, Switzerland) was performed to augment the edentulous #7 area adjacent to the #8 implant (Figure 16).

Immediate Provisionalization and Postoperative Care

The laboratory-fabricated provisional restorations were relined chairside with self-curing acrylic to ensure accurate fit and the three-unit splint was cemented with temporary cement (Temp Bond, Kerr, Orange, CA). Centric and excursive contacts were removed, and the patient was advised to avoid biting or chewing on the crowns and to avoid brushing the surgical area. The patient

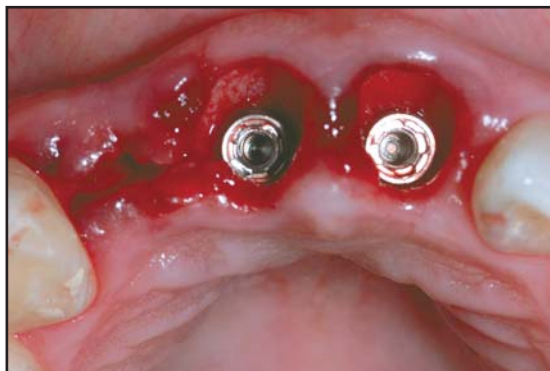


Figure 15. The implants were placed according to the concept of 3-dimensional implant placement, leaving a 3-mm distance between the implant and the buccal plate of bone.

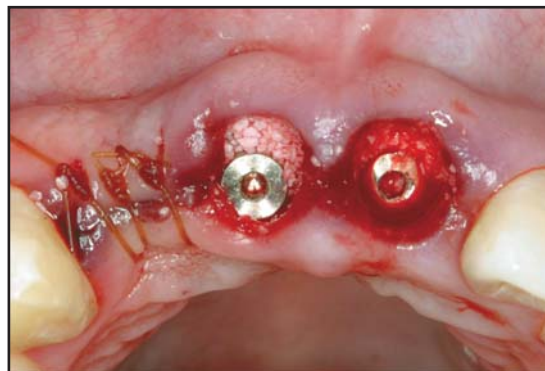


Figure 16. A mineralized cancellous bone allograft was placed buccal to the implants to fill the existing distance between the implants. A simultaneous ridge augmentation procedure was also performed.



Figure 17. Appearance of the provisional FPD was positioned with the cantilevered pontic to maintain papillary height for tooth #7(12), 6 months postoperatively.

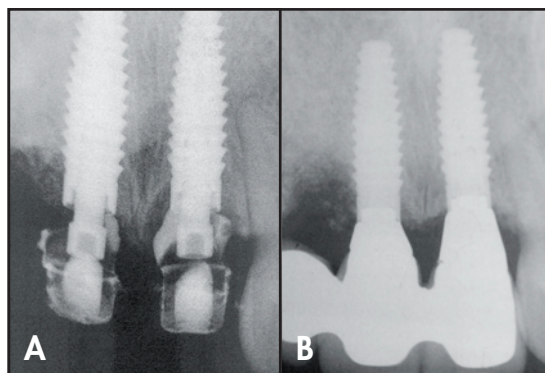


Figure 18A. Radiographic appearance of the implants immediately following placement. **18B.** Postoperative appearance 2.5 years following implant loading.

functioned with this provisional FPD in non-occlusion for 6 months prior to delivery of the final implant restoration (Figure 17).

Restorative Phase and Follow-Up Evaluation

Following 6 months of healing, the provisional FPD was removed and the final ceramic abutment torqued down with 35 Ncm. An abutment-level impression was performed and, two weeks later, the final all-ceramic crowns were delivered. For the purpose of achieving a natural aesthetic result, a cantilevered right lateral pontic was constructed instead of adding a third implant. The final restoration was cemented with temporary cement (Temp Bond, Kerr, Orange, CA). The patient was re-examined at 3, 6, 12, 24 and 30 months post-cementation of the final prosthesis. During this period, the level of the interproximal bone and the buccal gingival level remained stable (Figures 18 and 19).

Discussion

The preservation of the hard and soft tissue complex in the aesthetic zone following the loss of one or more teeth presents a difficult challenge. Despite the high survival rates achieved with osseointegrated implants, the peri-implant soft and hard tissue response is the key to a successful aesthetic implant restoration.

Mid-facial gingival recession is the most common complication of anterior single-tooth implants. Small and Tarnow reported greater facial recession with wider body implants.²⁴ It was speculated that this recession was caused by pressure against the buccal plate, causing resorption and consequent gingival recession. In the case reports presented in this article, the mid-buccal tissue remained undisturbed because the implant was placed 3 mm lingual to the buccal plate, and a graft was positioned to maintain the soft tissue contour. Placement of an immediate implant following extraction may or may



Figure 19. Postoperative appearance 2.5 years following implant placement demonstrates aesthetic maintenance of the buccogingival marginal levels.

not decrease the horizontal resorption of this buccal plate of bone.^{25,26} Since the distance from the implant to the buccal plate of bone was greater than 2 mm in both cases presented, a decision was made to fill this void with MCBA. No controlled studies exist to determine what, if any, material is necessary to fill the space to achieve improved implant survival.⁶ Histological evaluations in humans have, however, demonstrated that the horizontal component of the perio-implant defect around implants placed immediately following tooth extraction was "the most critical factor relating to the final amount of bone-to-implant contact."²⁷

Moreover, it has been demonstrated in animals that the greater the distance, the more apical the formation of the bone-to-implant contact.²⁸ Therefore, with a greater than 2-mm distance present in the two cases reported, a graft material was indicated to support the buccal soft tissue complex during healing to achieve improved aesthetics. In both cases reported, there was no attempt to cover the graft with a membrane barrier and/or buccal flap. Bone augmentation techniques following immediate implant placement may not be required, if the distance between implant and bony wall is less than 2 mm, when implants with a rough surface are used.²⁹

Very few studies have addressed the effect of using a graft or bone substitute alone to fill spaces greater than 2 mm without use of a barrier membrane. Various materials used to fill this gap have been described in a review of literature but the authors state that they "could find no indication...as to the superiority of any of these components or their necessity with respect to immediate implantation."^{5,6}

In this study, no attempt was made to advance the flap to cover the graft material. Advantages of this

approach include the following: 1) the microgingival junction is not coronally displaced; 2) no sutures are needed; and 3) it serves to keep the epithelium of the flap away from the wound, allowing more time for connective tissue and bone to repopulate the space.

In the first case presentation, the interproximal papilla was not present one week postoperatively, but developed over a 4-week period once the contact point was established. The papillae have remained intact 2.5 years post-surgery. Usually, following tooth removal, there is a collapse of the interproximal papilla due to loss of supracrestal gingival fibers. The papilla may be restored by restoration of the contact point of the implant-crown replacement, provided that distance of the bone crest on the adjacent tooth to contact point does not exceed 5 mm.³⁰ This response is, however, also affected by the peri-implant biotype because there is a greater peri-implant mucosal dimension in the presence of thick peri-implant biotypes compared to the thin biotype.^{31,32}

Although the tooth in Case 1 had a thin scalloped biotype, proper implant placement and creation of a contact point within 5 mm of the crestal bone resulted in papillae maintenance. The buccal soft tissue level has been maintained even more coronal than on the tooth that was extracted. This buccal gingival level was also more coronal on the implant than the marginal gingival level on the natural left central incisor. The gingival margin on the implant has been stable for 2.5 years post crown placement. In Case 2, two adjacent implants were immediately placed and provisionalized. Because of the biological limitations of the papilla height between 2 adjacent implants (average 3.4 mm), aesthetics were even more challenging.³³

In the cases presented, proper implant positioning was essential in achieving the desired aesthetic goals. In addition, the aim of the provisional restoration was to duplicate the natural tooth contour and mimic its contralateral natural tooth coronal to the free gingival margin. The shape of the provisional restoration with a reduced emergence profile allowed the soft tissue margin to remain in its coronal position. The final restoration was placed into a correctly contoured gingival sulcus. The use of implants with a laser micro-grooved coronal design may have contributed to the maintenance of buccal soft tissue, providing attachment and preventing epithelial cell downgrowth, which often occurs with machined collar implants.³⁴ Maintenance of this supra crestal soft tissue often depends on its ability to establish an attachment supercrestally to the implant surface.

Conclusion

These two case reports describe a surgical technique that preserves anterior aesthetics by combining minimally invasive extraction, immediate three-dimensional implant placement, grafting of the buccal space with MCBA without primary coverage, immediate non-occluding provisionalization, and the use of implants with a laser micro-grooved coronal design.

In both cases presented, the gingival complex surrounding the implants has remained stable with no recession 2.5 years following crown placement. Additional prospective clinical and histological studies are, however, required to determine if this protocol using implants with different coronal designs and surface morphologies with and without grafting can maintain the soft and hard tissue levels over time.

Acknowledgement

The author declares no financial interest in any of the products cited herein.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) EXERCISE No. 18



To submit your CE Exercise answers, please use the answer sheet found within the CE Editorial Section of this issue and complete as follows: 1) Identify the article; 2) Place an X in the appropriate box for each question of each exercise; 3) Clip answer sheet from the page and mail it to the CE Department at Montage Media Corporation. For further instructions, please refer to the CE Editorial Section.

The 10 multiple-choice questions for this Continuing Education (CE) exercise are based on the article "Biological principles for aesthetics: Immediate Implant placement and provisionalization—two case reports," by Stuart J. Froum, DDS, Sang-Choon Cho, DDS, Helena Francisco, DDS, et al. This article is on Pages 000-000.

1. The disadvantages of the loupes do NOT include:

- a. A reduction in treatment time.
- b. Fewer surgical interventions.
- c. They are predictable treatment modalities.
- d. All of the above.

2. The most common location around recession of anterior single-tooth implants is:

- a. Mesio-facial.
- b. Disto-facial.
- c. Mid-facial.
- d. Palatal.

3. For anterior single implants with adjacent natural teeth, the implant papilla is dependent on:

- a. Implant bone level.
- b. Adjacent teeth bone levels.
- c. Mid-facial bone level.
- d. Implant surface.

4. Critical factors for implant success following immediate placement and provisionalization include:

- a. Implant stability.
- b. Submerging of the implant during initial healing.
- c. Allowing healing without completely removing sutures.
- d. All of the above.

5. Critical factors for success in the two cases presented included:

- a. Three-dimensional implant placement.
- b. Grafting of the distance between the buccal plate and implant.
- c. Use of an implant with a laser micro-grooved collar to attach to soft and hard tissue.
- d. All of the above.

6. The disadvantages of immediate implant placement are:

- a. Gingival recession.
- b. Crestal bone loss.
- c. Lack of primary stability.
- d. Surgical trauma.

7. In the cases presented, what gap distance necessitated a fill with a bone graft material?

- a. 0 mm.
- b. 1 mm.
- c. 1 mm to 2 mm.
- d. > 2 mm.

8. Primary closure of the flap over the graft was achieved in both cases shown.

- a. This statement is true.
- b. This statement is false.

9. In Case 2, in order to achieve a more natural aesthetic result:

- a. 3 implants were placed and the implants were restored individually.
- b. 2 implants were placed and a cantilevered pontic was constructed instead of adding a third implant.
- c. One implant was placed with 2 adjacent pontics connected to a natural tooth that was crowned.
- d. Implant placement was performed following ridge augmentation surgery.

10. Bone augmentation techniques following immediate implant placement may NOT be required if the gap between the implant and bony wall:

- a. Is less than 2 mm.
- b. Is less than 3 mm to 4 mm.
- c. Is filled with the margins of the provisional restoration.
- d. Is circumferential.