

Immediate Implants and Aesthetics: A Major Challenge

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Received: December 13, 2016; **Published:** January 30, 2017

The ability to minimise hard- and soft-tissue changes is very important when performing immediate implant placement in the aesthetic zone. The advantages and approaches include fewer surgical procedures, atraumatic extraction, a shorter treatment timeframe, an immediate temporary prosthesis, and preservation of both the crestal bone height and bone width.

The challenge, however, arises when there is not enough gingival tissue to cover the fixed implant in the newly extracted socket root. Therefore, there is a need to perform some sort of soft-tissue grafting along with the installation of the implant. Even if no immediate implant had been installed, the absence of gum and buccal bone wall would require surgery and a gingival graft in this region with more than one intervention.

In cases where an anterior tooth will be lost, the placement of a temporary crown that not loaded and is totally out of occlusion on an immediate implant not only preserves the crestal bone, but also supports the gingival contour and preserves the papillae. As a result, a natural-looking crown is achieved. It is very important to focus on marginal bone loss, implant survival and success, but it is mainly the immediate aesthetic result that concerns most patients. Giving a patient a dental crown, even a temporary one, on the same day as the extraction brings him or her comfort and safety. The aesthetic and functional resolution on immediate implant placement in the aesthetic zone requires perio-implantology planning and substantially professional skill in tissue manipulation.

Volume 7 Issue 5 January 2017

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