Millions of Americans wear dentures. Unfortunately, the majority of denture wearers are dissatisfied with their prosthesis — their chief complaints being poor retention, discomfort or difficulty speaking and eating. Supporting and stabilizing dentures with small diameter implants (mini-implant retained dentures) can resolve these problems and significantly improve denture retention, offering long-term clinical success.

The procedure involves creating a removable connection between the implants and the corresponding attachments, or secondary components, of the denture. Attachment bonding can be done by a lab in the indirect procedure, which causes a second appointment and is inconvenient for patient and clinician. As an alternative, it can be done directly in the pick-up method. The direct pick-up method has the advantage that it can be done in one appointment and is more accurate. However, the biggest fear of clinicians is the accidental locking of the denture to the abutment. VOCO now introduces Quick Up, a complete system that virtually eliminates the risk of interlocking and cuts chairside time in half.

**The Quick Up product**

With everything in one system, Quick Up improves workflow and chairside efficiency, saving time and money. The system includes Quick Up self-curing composite in the QuickMix syringe. Designed specifically for bonding attachments, such as ball, Locator® and telescopic attachments as well as other attachments in acrylic-based dentures, Quick Up self-curing composite can also be used for reattaching secondary elements in a denture, such as bar retainers.

Easy to use, Quick Up self-curing composite demonstrates exceptionally high strength, a physical attribute that’s essential for the long-term stability of denture attachments.

Other components of the system include: Fit Test C&B, used to check whether the openings in the denture base provide enough space to receive the attachments and for blocking out undercuts in the overdenture; Quick Up adhesive, a strong adhesive material that is applied to the underside of the denture to improve composite retention; and Quick Up method eliminates risk of accidental locking of dentures to implant, cuts procedure time in half.
Fig. 3. Apply Quick Up self-cured material.
Fig. 4. Fill deficiencies with Quick Up LC.

Up LC, a light-cure composite used to correct minor surface defects in the denture.

The Quick Up method

After the mini-implants have been placed into the jaw, a recess is prepared into the denture. The Quick Up method does not require vent holes. To ensure that the openings in the denture base provide enough space to receive the attachments, the kit includes Fit Test C&B, a control silicone (Fig.1). This step is optional, but highly recommended for best results. Fit Test can also be used to block out any undercuts around the attachments, teeth or implants (Fig. 2).

Quick Up adhesive is applied and then recess filled only 2/3 full with the fast-setting Quick Up self-curing composite using the Quick Up automix syringe (Fig. 3). By under filling the recess, the risk of interlocking the denture with the intraoral attachments is virtually eliminated.

Furthermore, it saves time by eliminating the time-consuming step of removing excess composite material later. After seating the denture in the patient’s mouth, the material will set intraorally in only 2.5 minutes. After removal, any deficiencies can easily be filled with the light-cured Quick Up LC (Fig. 4).

Optimized work flow improves the bottom line

The new Quick Up method not only improves the clinical success rate, but also optimizes work flow. In difficult economic times, it becomes more and more important for clinicians to optimize work flows without compromising quality. The Quick Up method is a great example how a product can not only improve results, but improve the work flow, save time and, therefore, money.

Compared to indirect lab-processed bonding of denture housings, the clinician saves impression material, disinfection, chairside time and lab fees. Yet even if the direct pick-up method is chosen, there are differences.

The new Quick Up method can cut the procedure time in half and save the clinician up to $125 in chairside time for each procedure.

Table I. The example at right illustrates two implant pick ups. According to the American Dental Association, the average chair time cost is $300 per hour. Depending on each clinician’s skills and cost structure, the results may be different than those shown in this table. VOCO recommends doing your own calculation based on your experience and individual office costs.
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ADA C.E.R.P is a review of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA C.E.R.P does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hour by boards of dentistry.
Using CBCT imaging in the diagnostic phase of the implant process offers clinicians many advantages. These high-resolution 3-D images offer details about the bone structure, tooth orientation, buccolingual dimensions, bone height and concavities that are unattainable with 2-D imaging methods.

When placing an implant, just estimating the location or measurement of bone is not prudent and can be stressful for both the doctor and the patient. The precise knowledge of the bone and surrounding anatomical structures obtained with a CBCT scan is imperative, in my opinion, for the successful placement of an implant. Armed with this information, and with a 3-D image that I can rotate or slice in any direction, I can make knowledgeable decisions necessary regarding whether to place the implant or whether other solutions are necessary, such as bone grafting or even a different prosthetic solution.

As CBCT imaging continues to evolve, I find my system offers applications that extend beyond diagnosis — to treatment planning and placement — becoming an integral part in the entire process from start to finish.

A new and very helpful step in the 3-D implant placement process in my implant centers is the Tx STUDIO software that is integrated into my i-CAT® system. With the tools in this software, I can measure bone, find pathology, automatically map the nerve canals, determine tooth positioning and impactions and location of the implant site to other vital anatomical structures.

Within a few minutes, and with just a few mouse clicks, I can plan the surgery and also place virtual implants, abutments and restorations into the 3-D image. The software also contains an implant library, and scans are compatible with all major surgical guide systems. This not only helps me to start treatment with more details, it also helps me to educate the patients in a visual way that they can understand. Because the software allows all of this planning to be done chairside, I can show the patient exactly what has to be done to place his/her implant.

3-D technology also allows me to work with other specialists for the patients’ best interests. For example, when working with orthodontists, if a patient has a congenitally missing or traumatically lost tooth, the data obtained with my scan allows us both to maintain the space necessary to receive an implant at the right time during treatment. Without this, teeth can drift, requiring longer orthodontic treatment.

Once my clinical objectives are met, another very important aspect — the esthetic objective — is also aided by the 3-D scanning process. I custom mill ceramic abutments and use IPS e.max® crowns using my E4D crown milling machine. Software called E4D Compass integrates the 3-D data from my CBCT with E4D scan data for formulation of my entire restorative plan. When the data from the 3-D scan and the
E4D Compass is integrated, it is possible to view a specific type of implant, adjust abutment alignment and view bone and soft tissue to better anticipate the implant process. The whole process of digital radiography, CBCT and CAD/CAM milling provide for a smooth implant process.

The information from the CBCT is an aspect that I would not want to do without, and now, I can obtain that wealth of information while controlling the radiation dose within the limits of ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable). My CBCT also affords me control over radiation dosage through scan settings. With each scan, I am able to tailor the radiation exposure to the individual needs of the patient. When taking a CBCT scan, the i-CAT allows me to focus on a particular area of interest. The 4.8-second scan allows the clinician to expose the patient to a minimum amount of radiation while still achieving the diagnostic information necessary for optimal treatment.

An article published in the Journal of the American Dental Association noted that CBCT scans are “accurate and cost effective and can be used to improve communication and coordination of a multidisciplinary team to achieve the desired clinical outcome.” It is very beneficial to be able to virtually run through multiple treatment scenarios until I discover the best treatment plan for the patient, and then use my other compatible software tools for clinical implementation.

From diagnosis to treatment planning to implementation, one 3-D scan provides all of the information necessary for better implant placement — for patients and dentists, the benefits of this imaging method touch all parts of the implant process — from start to finish.

Reference

About the author

Justin Moody, DDS, graduated from the University of Oklahoma, College of Dentistry. As a supporter of organized dentistry and continuing education, he maintains membership with the American Dental Association, American Academy of Implant Dentistry and Academy of Osseointegration, as well as state and local societies. Additionally, Moody is a diplomat with both the International Congress of Oral Implantologists and the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry and a fellow with the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. He also holds mastership and fellow status at the Misch International Implant Institute. Moody has been in private practice in Crawford, Neb., since 1997 and is the director of the Rocky Mountain Dental Institute.
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BIOMET 3i announced recently that Endobon® Xenograft Granules are now cleared for use in sinus elevation procedures and are also available in convenient, easy-to-use packaging for safety and value.

Endobon Xenograft Granules are hydroxyapatite ceramic derived from cancellous bovine bone and are fully deproteinated by a two-step high temperature manufacturing process for safety from bacteria, viruses and prions. The granules contain osseoconductive properties that facilitate bone growth directly on the ceramic surface and through the entire graft and are designed to facilitate maximum bone volume retention.

Endobon Xenograft Granules have more than 10 years of combined use in oral maxillofacial and orthopedic procedures and are available in large and small granule sizes to accommodate the defect size that the clinician is treating.

The new Endobon Xenograft Granules packaging features:
- Easy-to-open dishes; particles don’t stick to the lid
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- Convenient value packs of individually sealed 1.0ml dishes for the large granule sites
- A red dot on the label to indicate sterility of every pack

BIOMET 3i

BIOMET 3i, a division of Biomet, Inc., is a leading manufacturer of dental implants, abutments and related products. Since its inception in 1987, BIOMET 3i has been on the forefront in developing, manufacturing and distributing oral reconstructive products, including dental implant components and bone and tissue regenerative materials. The company also provides educational programs and seminars for dental professionals around the world.

BIOMET 3i is based in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., with operations throughout North America, Latin America, Europe and Asia-Pacific. For more information about BIOMET 3i, visit www.biomet3i.com or contact the company at (800) 342-5454; outside the United States, dial (561) 776-6700.
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Yankee Dental Congress 2013 will bring together thousands of brilliant minds to learn about the most innovative approaches, practices, and resources in dentistry.

Here is a sneak peak at a few education highlights:

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Zimmer Dental now distributing IngeniOs synthetic bone-grafting products

IngeniOs HA Synthetic Bone Particles, left, and IngeniOs β-TCP Bioactive. (Photo/Provided by Zimmer Dental)

_Zimmer Dental Inc., a leading provider of dental oral rehabilitation products and a subsidiary of Zimmer Holdings, Inc., is pleased to announce an exclusive agreement with curasan AG, to globally distribute innovative synthetic bone grafting materials to the dental market under the IngeniOs™ brand.

_IngeniOs HA Synthetic Bone Particles_ are a 100 percent non-biologic, pure-phase hydroxyapatite (HA) bone substitute for filling bone defects in a number of dental procedures, including alveolar ridge augmentation, guided tissue regeneration, extractions and sinus lifts. With up to 80 percent porosity and minimal resorption over time, IngeniOs HA is designed to provide long-lasting support of vascularized bone formation and exhibits radiopacity for easy X-ray identification.

For clinicians interested in a 100 percent non-biologic, resorbable solution, Zimmer Dental offers _IngeniOs β-TCP Bioactive Synthetic Bone Particles_. This silicated grafting formulation offers the potential for increased bioactivity and is designed to resorb in balance with replacement by naturally-regenerating mineralized bone.

_IngeniOs β-TCP Bioactive_, also radiopaque, has up to 75 percent interconnected porosity to enable ingrowth of healthy bone tissue. Like _IngeniOs HA_, _IngeniOs β-TCP_ is indicated for a variety of dental procedures, including alveolar ridge augmentations, filling periodontal defects, extractions and sinus lifts.

The _IngeniOs_ product line expands Zimmer Dental’s comprehensive regenerative portfolio (which includes a variety of allograft and bovine options for both hard- and soft-tissue augmentation procedures) with viable synthetic hard tissue regenerative options.

“Zimmer Dental continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to improving patients’ lives,” said Harold C. Flynn, Jr., Zimmer Dental president. “This agreement strengthens our industry-leading regenerative portfolio by offering a variety of synthetic options to our diverse customer base. By providing world-class dental implants, tried-and-true restorative options, and cutting-edge regenerative solutions, we give clinicians the flexibility to serve their patients with the most comprehensive portfolio in the industry.”

For more information regarding these synthetic regenerative options, contact a Zimmer Dental sales consultant or customer service at (800) 854-7019, or visit www.zimmerdental.com.
Intra-Lock is proud to introduce BLOSSOM™, a new technology in self-tapping screw-type dental implant architecture.

This engineering breakthrough (patent pending) eliminates the need for conventional flutes and vents that traditionally define self-tapping implants. Implants augmented with BLOSSOM self-tapping technology feature a fully integrated tapping configuration that is distributed along the implant.

They are angled and augmented by evenly spaced, crescent-shaped, helical cutting segments. This design is intended to mitigate the high compressive forces that build up when conventional tapping segments become clogged with bone debris (crowding), which can unnecessarily increase insertion torque.

BLOSSOM self-tapping implants continually cut through the bone with remarkable efficiency and lower insertion torque; a result of greater cutting efficiency, the elimination of crowding and less friction.

‘This engineering breakthrough (patent pending) eliminates the need for conventional flutes and vents that traditionally define self-tapping implants.’

Reduced micro-movement is enhanced by greater intimate bone contact, larger volume of surface area engaged with bone and efficient tap architecture. BLOSSOM technology is currently available on selected Intra-Lock Dental Implants. For more information, visit www.intra-lock.com.
In the event patients become edentulous, dentures offer many advantages compared to other alternatives. They are esthetically pleasing, easy to maintain and cost effective. However, these benefits are often hampered by patient discomfort and may lead to difficulty in chewing, pronunciation and freely expressing facial expressions such as smiling or laughing. To compensate, denture wearers often change their daily routine and diet in ways that expose them to greater health risks.

Clearly this situation often leaves dentists less excited about proposing dentures as a viable solution for their edentulous patients. Paul Homoly, DDS, president of Homoly Communications, suggests the shortcomings of a traditional denture treatment prevent most dentists from being content with this treatment option for their patients. Dentatus also found that dentists may be prolonging tooth extractions, particularly in the mandibular arch, because of poor retention of dentures and continual bone resorption.

There is, however, a treatment option that can dramatically improve the patient experience with a lower denture and prevent bone resorption. Meijer et al., reports that patients with mandibular overdentures supported by implants are more satisfied compared to patients without the implants. With the advent of narrow-diameter implants, this treatment option is now more accessible than ever before. Dentatus has found that narrow-body implant retained overdentures can overcome many hurdles providing more patients with access to the latest and most beneficial treatments available.

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Atlas narrow-diameter implants are built and clinically proven for long-term use. They are tested with university-based research from around the world; the first results were published in 2004. In 2007, Dr. Sang-Choon Cho, Dr. Stuart Froum and his colleagues from the New York University Department of Implant Dentistry published a study in PPAD stating, “In this study, full mandibular dentures supported by nonsplinted, dome-shaped NBIs provided immediate occlusal loading and function with high survival rates of both the NDIs (i.e., 94.1 percent) and prostheses (i.e., 100 percent).”

In 2005, JOMI published Dr. Michael Rohrer’s histology study on Dentatus implants. Rohrer determined that the percentage of bone in contact with the body of Dentatus implants in "the same range and sometimes higher than what is usually seen with conventional implants.”
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These results support well-known literature about implant design and materials in the following ways: Atlas narrow-body dental implants are composed of grade V, titanium alloy; the threaded portion of the implant is mechanically roughened to increase surface area and maximize the bone-implant interface; and the tapered design better facilitates implant placement, promotes initial implant stability and better distributes occlusal loads along the body of the implant.

Ease of restoration

Site preparation in the atrophic anterior mandible often provides practitioners with challenging anatomic limitations such as exaggerated facial lingual bone angulation created by the submental fossa and the mentalis muscle insertion. As such, angulation of the implants may vary from site to site resulting in non-parallel implant placement. During the retrofit process, this can lead to attachments protruding out of the denture flange or may weaken the denture by drilling into the denture teeth.

With Atlas implants a silicone material of flowable nature (Tuf-Link, Dentatus) offers cushioned support designed to maximally engage the dome-shaped head to achieve clinically significant retention even in these less than ideal conditions.

The reline provides for an individualized custom fit every time, the first time. Additionally, the silicone based reline provides retention without rigidity, thereby reducing unwanted lateral forces further increasing integration potential, ultimately protecting the implant.

Advantages

The advantages of the Atlas narrow-body implants are several. First and foremost, they expand the patient population that is eligible for this treatment. Narrow-body implants make it easier to maintain adequate buccal-lingual bone dimensions and proper implant spacing without the need for ridge augmentation. The narrow-body diameter allows a thicker buccal bone because less bone is removed for the osteotomy. The tapered one-piece implant design eliminates the microgap, which is related to crestal bone loss, facilitates one-stage surgery, provides immediate restoration and is more conducive to a flapless implant placement. Utilizing a minimally invasive flapless procedure with an immediate restoration eliminates many postoperative challenges and reduces total treatment time.

Isn’t it time you looked into this treatment option to restore quality of life for your denture patients?

Dentatus makes it easy for you to get started with its half-day hands-on workshops. All the materials for your first case are included in the registration fee.

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The Narrow Neck CrossFit Standard Plus Implant follows in the Straumann tradition of innovation. Straumann is a pioneer of innovative solutions for implant dentistry, including the introduction of the SLA® surface in 1998, the revolutionary SLActive® surface in 2006 and the technologically advanced Roxolid® implant material in 2009. Now, 2012, a new generation of small-diameter tissue level implant.

* Fatigue strength according to ISO 14801 internal tests, data on file (B679A/B567A)

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1. Small diameter implants are not recommended for use in the molar region
2. Compared to SLA in an animal model
3. Compared to Straumann Narrow Neck Implant