

Surgical Management of Soft and Hard Tissue for Esthetic Implants

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The objective of implant-supported restorations in dentistry is to fabricate prostheses which fulfill the requirements of natural dentition. Proper diagnosis and planning of implant placement and restoration are prerequisites in achieving optimal function, esthetics, and adequate access for oral hygiene.

With the increasing patient demand for esthetic restorations, proper periimplant tissue management has become a major concern of every clinician involved in implantology. The most successful and predictable treatments can be accomplished only when the optimal osseous dimensions are first reconstructed to support the regeneration of the optimal gingival contours, which, in turn, can sustain the development of an esthetic restorative emergence profile. The presence of sufficient bone support is necessary not only for the placement of the implant, but also for the development and maintenance of the soft tissue required for postoperative esthetics.

Soft tissue management has become a key topic in esthetically oriented implant dentistry. Creation of soft tissue contour, with intact papillae and a gingival outline that is harmonious with the gingival silhouette of the adjacent dentition, is the most difficult factor in achieving an esthetically optimal result.

Periimplant tissue management should be performed as early as possible. The sooner it is initiated, the more surgical options are available to suit each clinical circumstance. When the tooth to be replaced is still in its socket, every opportunity for esthetic success is present; when the final restoration is completed, it severely limits the periodontal opportunities. In general, four potential points in time can be differentiated for soft and hard tissue management:

1. Prior to implant placement.
2. At implant placement.
3. At second-stage surgery.
4. In the maintenance phase

The purpose of this presentation is to review these options by means of case presentations. Success with implant-supported restorations requires close interdisciplinary teamwork between the prosthodontist and the periodontist and a treatment plan with equal attention to function and esthetics.

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