Immediate Loading of Implants: Influence of Surface Characteristics

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Recent clinical studies indicate that an implant with a roughened surface may be loaded sooner than traditional healing protocols have recommended. The presentation reports the results of a study evaluating the clinical performance of immediate loading of dental implants with a porous microstructured grit blasted/acid etched/neutralized surface in different treatment modalities.

Between 1999 and 2003, 273 XiVE° screw-type implants were consecutively placed with a placement torque of at least 35 Ncm in 82 patients and immediately loaded. 224 were placed in the mandible and 49 in the maxilla. 152 implants were inserted in the interforaminal area of the mandible and restored with a bar and overdenture, further 20 implants in the same region were restored with bridges and also functionally loaded. 101 implants mainly in the esthetic area of the maxilla and mandible were immediately restored but without functional loading (out of occlusion), for single-tooth or bridge restoration.





After a follow-up of 12 to 60 months (average 36.3 months) 3 implants failed in the edentulous mandible during the first 2 months of loading. All other implants are still in function with acceptable peri-implant parameters. Bone loss > 3 mm was observed in 6 implants placed in the edentulous mandible and in 1 implant inserted in the maxilla. The 101 non-functionally loaded implants osseointegrated and were restored with a functionally loaded ceramic crown or screw-retained bridge 3 to 4 months after implant placement. Peri-implant probing depth and bone loss showed no significant difference between functional and non-functional implant loading

The data and the experience described of this 5-year analysis indicate that immediate loading beyond the proven and documented standard of splinting four implants in the anterior mandible can be a predictable technique for shortening dental rehabilitation time with relevant satisfaction for patients, in cases of implants with a high primary stability, using appropriate surgical and restorative techniques. The specific surface roughness on the endosseous section of the implant seems to enhance the regeneration potential at the interface, thus improving clinical implant osseointegration, allowing accelerate implant protocols.

Single Tooth













Complex Restoration













Temporary Restoration













Edentulous Mandible









The clinical situation of the bar on four XiVE® TG implants.













