The use of CBCT and CAD/CAM techniques in complex implant-supported rehabilitation of maxilla—Part II

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Fig. 1: A virtual image of a scanned model with abutments and telescopic crowns.
Fig. 2: Design of the construction with the transparency mode on.
Fig. 3: Ready-made construction on a virtual model.
Fig. 4: Scan of the temporary prosthesis (blue color) visible against the design of the construction.

In the first part of this article (published in CAD/CAM 1/2017) the different phases of diagnostics, planning and implantological treatment were presented. In the process of planning, the necessity of creating temporary restorations in order to increase the patient’s comfort was taken into consideration, keeping in mind the fact that augmentative procedures must be performed.

Once the implants—located at lateral sections of the maxilla both on the right- and left-hand side—had integrated, it was possible to proceed to the process of designing and building the final construction of the prosthetic restoration. The integration period took considerably longer than in the case of frontal sections of the maxilla because of the necessity of performing a sinus lift procedure.

The patient was very well protected as he had been using a skeletal prosthesis based on four telescopic abutments at the frontal section. Benefits arising from such a solution consisted not only in the feeling of comfort, but also in the fact that the frontal implants were subject to functional loading immediately after the period of initial integration, which has resulted in the surrounding bone being subjected to the process of condensing thanks to regular training. Another advantage was the fact that there was no need to disassemble the telescopic abutments on the implants at the frontal section as the abutments had primary telescopic crowns, while the secondary ones had been prepared as a second set for placing within the final construction.

The final prosthetic restoration included a bridge attached to four implants, and on four telescopic abutments based on a TRINIA framework, which was created by means of CAD/CAM techniques, onto which zirconia based porcelain crowns were glued. The remaining part of the structure was veneered by means of a pink composite material in order to imitate the gum.
In order to prepare the bridge, a model was scanned and transferred onto a computer using software to design the bar (Fig. 1). The bar was designed by using special software in such a way that the whole design was transparent in the first phase so that the location of abutments and the position of the telescopic abutments at the frontal section could be visible (Fig. 2).

Having planned the proper shape and location of pillars for the porcelain crowns, the transparency was switched off (Fig. 3).

The next phase involved the planning of the size and shape of the final teeth, which, as porcelain crowns, will be glued onto the construction (Fig. 4). For that purpose, it is very helpful if on the design of the bar, a scan of the patient’s temporary model prosthesis can be planted.

The patient must first approve the wax-up, in aesthetic and functional terms (Fig. 4). A computer programme for designing such constructions provides us with the possibility of viewing and designing the bar...
Fig. 13: Porcelain crowns prepared for testing. – Fig. 14: Porcelain crowns based on a model prior to veneering by means of a pink composite.

Fig. 15: Test of the construction together with crowns and the mouth slightly open. – Fig. 16: Maximum smile of the patient with crowns. – Fig. 17: Maximum smile of the patient without crowns. – Fig. 18: Preparation of the structure for gum modelling. (Photo: courtesy of Inter-dent laboratory) – Fig. 19: A model with a gingival mask. – Fig. 20: Prosthetic work based on a model where veneering of the gum was started and with crowns.
from all angles. Figures 5 to 9 show some exemplary prints of the views visible from the occlusal surface. Having finished the designing process, the bar should be visually inspected from the intragingival side (Fig. 10).

After this has been done, the next step consists in testing the almost ready-made crowns before the final glazing and before attaching it onto the model. As a result it is possible to make corrections, should they be necessary. Of course, one should check the proper match-up and the aesthetics on the model (Figs. 13 & 14).

After the model was analysed, we proceeded to analyse the fitting and the aesthetics in the mouth of the patient. Carrying out such a test makes a lot of sense, especially in a dynamic way, and by asking the patient to make various facial movements, such as smiles and grimaces, we can assess the properties of the course of the border line of the zenith of the teeth and the transition into a gingival garland. It is of real importance as at this stage that we can plan the process of covering the construction with pink porcelain or composite (Figs. 15–17).

After the test, we sent the construction to a prosthetic laboratory with detailed guidelines for veneering. To achieve the proper location of the pink veneering it was necessary to place the porcelain crowns onto the bar and model the border line for the gingival garland.

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Fig. 21: Openings for screws are located before placing the crowns. – Fig. 22: Comparison of the pattern, that is, the temporary prosthesis and the final prosthetic work. – Fig. 23: Final restoration prior to handover and the placing of crowns. – Fig. 24: Final restoration—frontal view. – Fig. 25: Magnification showing precision in the making of the crowns and in veneering by means of pink composite.

Fig. 21
Fig. 22
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Fig. 25
Fig. 26
Due to the fact that the prosthesis constituted the ideal shape of the teeth, it was worth comparing it with the final prosthetic work and assessing the details of the whole work process before the patient sits comfortably in the dental chair (Figs. 21–25). If the quality of the work satisfies our expectations, we may proceed to the handing-over stage and perform the functional and aesthetic analysis, both intra- and extraorally. A perfect conclusion to the treatment process is the receipt of a complete set of OPG X-rays taken before, during and following treatment (Figs. 29–32).

Conclusion

The performance of prosthetic reconstruction always requires a detailed plan. At present, when planning implantological treatment, the use of advantages that CBCT-based imaging has to offer has become obligatory. As a result of that, one can avoid certain complications that result from improper recognition of anatomical conditions. Planning prosthetic restorations based on implants requires even more precision than restorations based on own teeth due to the necessity of acquiring passivity in the construction’s adhesion to implants.

Due to the fact that patients prefer fixed prosthetic restorations, the author recommends making bridges or prosthesis that enable disassembly for maintenance purposes. In such situations, these restorations are based on telescopic or screw-retained abutments.

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Editorial note: This article is the second part of a two-part series. Part I was published in CAD/CAM 1/2017.

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