Matching of CBCT and virtual wax-up for single-tooth replacement of a central incisor

By Dr Jakob Zwaan, The Netherlands and Mr Vito Minutolo, Italy

Though many smile design programmes offer us solutions for rendering of multiple-tooth replacements that we suffer from in daily practice, we encounter major challenges when just a single tooth needs to be replaced. In order to estimate the risk of an unacceptable aesthetic final result of our treatment and to determine the most effective and predictable treatment plan, it is necessary, also in these cases, to perform an analysis of the desired tooth shape, the soft tissue architecture and the bone volume necessary to stabilise an implant in the optimal position and support the soft tissue. This analysis can be done using several means. In the traditional workflows, we asked our dental technician, after taking impressions of the dental arches and registering the occlusion, to perform a wax-up to obtain information about tissue volume available and needed. It was difficult to get from this hard model information about the lip line and gingival exposure, and before the era of 3D scanning, it was impossible to interface the teeth with the deeper anatomy. With the arrival of digital photography, video, intraoral scanner and CBCT scanners, our possibilities have grown enormously, thus raising the accuracy and predictability of our treatments.

In the following case report, the author will try to describe how he and his team approach cases in which a single tooth needs to be replaced by an implant-supported crown. Most of the procedures can be applied to more extensive cases, since the basic rules of implant dentistry are universal. After an anamnestic interview in which patient expectations play a fundamental role, we proceed with the intraoral examination. Hygiene and periodontal health are checked and, if required, a session for calculus debridement, motivation and instruction is scheduled.

Normally, the first radiographic examination performed is an intraoral radiograph for a single tooth (Fig. 1) or a dental panoramic tomogram if the need for a more extensive treatment is suspected. In the same session, both dental arches are scanned with an intraoral scanner and the bite is registered. A simple photographic sequence is followed:

1. Frontal view intraoral photograph (Fig. 2).
2. Detail photograph of the single arch, possibly with a black mirror to contrast the teeth (Fig. 3).
3. Photograph of lateral/lateral detail of the tooth and gingival profile (Fig. 4).
4. Full face photograph with maximum gingival exposure (Fig. 5).
5. Full face photograph of a spontaneous smile (Fig. 6).
6. Photograph of the full face at rest.

This sequence allows one to view immediately the presence of orthognathic and periodontal issues (Figs. 1 & 2), to evaluate the biotype (Figs. 2 & 3) and to estimate aesthetic challenges, like tooth colour, tooth texture, soft tissue/lip exposure and position of the incisal edge/lip (Figs. 2 & 4–6). The 3D intraoral scan is extremely helpful for determining orthodontic alignment of the teeth and in our protocol replaces an occlusal and/or 12 o’clock photograph in most cases.

“The can be different ways of treating a disease, but there can be only one correct diagnosis.” Dr Morton Amsterdam, 1974. When anamnesis, intraoral examination and preliminary radiographs are sufficient to conclude that the tooth in question cannot be preserved, it needs to be decided what the optimal timing for extraction and a CBCT scan is and how to provide for a temporary tooth replacement. The timing of implant placement is essential and the operator must choose between immediate, early or delayed placement in the fresh extraction socket. Will there be a (potential) need for bone augmentation and/or a soft tissue graft? To short, our policy is the following. In case of acute inflammation that cannot be effectively treated in a way that an infection of the future implant site will be prevented, we will proceed with extraction. A temporary fixed/edentulous bond or removable prosthetic can be used to guarantee acceptable aesthetic comfort to the patient. In these cases, a CBCT scan can be taken after extraction so that the most detailed image of the socket anatomy can be obtained. Since a provisional solution has been provided for, there is no need for very early implant placement. Timing is now based on the expected period needed for the infection to be eliminated and the risk of loss of volume by the collapse of tissue. Normally, the implant is placed four to six weeks after the extraction. Another reason for delayed implant placement can be the need for healed soft tissue in order to facilitate proper wound closure to protect, for example, bone substitutes and membranes when bone augmentation is necessary. Additionally, if the patient is suffering owing to the tooth that is to be extracted, it can be a reason to proceed quickly with the extraction, thus gaining time for adequate treatment planning and preparing for surgery and eventual immediate temporary crowns. If the anatomy and biological conditions are favourable, one can decide to proceed with implant surgery at an early stage after extraction, such as one week. Only in those cases in which there is no acute inflammation or infection, and sufficient bone and soft tissue quantity and quality are present is it recommended to place the implant in the fresh extraction socket. Obviously, in such a case the CBCT scan would be performed before proceeding. Minor bone augmentation and/or connective tissue grafting can be performed contemporaneously. The decision to place an immediate provisional crown on the implant is strongly related to the expected primary stability of the implant, as well as the opportunity to manage the position of biomaterials in such way that undisturbed and uncontaminated healing is guaranteed. After healing, good aesthetics and sufficient protection of the underlying implant and implant-prosthesis connection are requisite if we wish to treat our patients in the best possible way and earn their long-term trust.

Risk evaluation

First aesthetic risk evaluation

A very simple tool to start with can be a render of a 2D photograph. We use the macro intraoral shot with the black background behind the teeth (Fig. 3). With Adobe Photoshop, GIMP, Microsoft PowerPoint or Keynote, for example, it is possible, with little time invested and no expense, to cut out the shape of the contralateral tooth that will not be extracted, copy it, flip it horizontally and paste it in the position of the tooth that needs replacement.

It will be clear immediately whether this shape, which provides for symmetry of the papillary volume, is sufficient or whether there is a lack of volume that needs to be compensated for (Fig. 7). Another trick is to use this image with the flipped contralateral tooth and align it with the original photograph and then draw a horizontal line across both images that coincides with the same gingival reference points. This will demonstrate whether there is a vertical component that indicates a lack or abundance of soft tissue (Fig. 8). This can be easily quantified in a computerised system if an intraoral reference is measured with a calliper. We can now inform the patient whether...
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an additional procedure like guided bone regeneration (GBR) or a connective tissue graft will be needed, which can be helpful for informed consent and financial planning.

Second risk evaluation
The intraoral scan is imported into CAD software and transformed into a virtual master model without the tooth to be extracted and a separate STL shape of the ideal CAD-designed tooth (Fig. 9). Now there is the opportunity for 3D evaluation of the dimensional relation between the new tooth and the soft tissue before extraction. In the current case, the tooth involved had not been extracted and a CBCT scan was performed (X-Mind trinium, ACTEON; 110 x 80 mm field of view, 0.15 mm voxel size) for further investigation and treatment planning. In the AIS 3D App software that comes with the CBCT X-Mind trinium device, STL files can be matched and aligned with the 3D bone volume, thus giving the opportunity to plan the future implant position taking into account the shape and position of the future crown (Figs. 10a & b).

Case report
The female patient, aged 47 and a non-smoker, was in good general health. She performed regular oral hygiene and had good periodontal health. The patient experienced increasing mobility of the maxillary left central incisor and complained about compromised aesthetics due to the extrusion and progressive migration of the tooth in a buccal direction. The incisor had been treated with a crown at a preadolescent age after a violent trauma. The intraoral radiograph showed incomplete root development and evidence of a root canal therapy suggesting a strip perforation though no signs of periapical lesions were present. The shape of the crown was not symmetrical in relation to the triangular shape of the maxillary right central incisor, but had a wider and rectangular profile. Minor general gingival recession had led to the presence of a tiny inter-dental space. The marginal gingiva was reddened, and the central papilla was not symmetrical.

Probing depths were within 2 mm for both the right and left central incisors and the radiographic mesial and distal bone peaks were of a regular height.

The photographic aesthetic evaluation showed that it would be very difficult to obtain symmetry in tooth shape and have good-looking and healthy soft tissue support at the same time. The patient’s maximum smile exposed the gingival contours. In such cases, it may be wise to consider also the possibility of altering the anatomy of the contralateral tooth with, for example, a ceramic veneer and discuss outcomes with the patient before finalising the treatment plan. This can be evaluated by performing the cut/copy/flip/paste sequence in reverse (Fig. 7). Together with the patient, it was decided to start performing the best possible replacement of the maxillary left central incisor and evaluate
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Certificate  |  3 Modules  |  12 Days
Module 1  |  21-24 March 2019 (4 days)  |  Fundamental of Endodontics
Programme outline: Introduction to contemporary endodontics. Understanding of instrument design and its effect on prevention of iatrogenic errors.
Handson: Hand filing and lateral compaction techniques.

Module 2  |  19-22 June 2019 (4 days)  |  Aetiology and Diagnosis of Endodontic Disease
Programme outline: Microbiology of endodontic disease and its relationship with the host immune response.
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at an advanced stage with a temporary crown on the implant and mature, conditioned tissue whether to add a veneer to the maxillary right central incisor.

Analyzing the CBCT scan
It became evident that the short-rooted tooth could be extracted without compromising the buccal bone and that there was sufficient bone volume and quality to obtain good primary stability of the implant. Thanks to the AIS 3D App software, this information can be visualized using the bone density tool and linear measures tool (Fig. 10c) and represented in a graph or according to a coloured scale. The presence of the nasopalatine duct prohibited ideal palatal positioning of the implant, and if the implant were to be placed flush with the palatal alveolar bone, this would have resulted in a 15–20 mm high exposure of the implant collar on the buccal aspect (Fig. 18b). This information, combined with the aesthetic analysis, led to the decision to place the implant in that position and to augment the buccal bone volume with a contemporaneous GBR procedure, thus also providing for major soft tissue support. As often described in the literature, it is to be expected that in some measure the implant will deviate buccally** from the original planning because of the major mechanical resistance of the palatal plate. The author’s team prefers whenever possible screw-retained solutions. Several production centres are capable of milling angulated screw access holes in cobalt-chromium abutments of up to 25°, which is a range that covers the majority of the reference on the implant driver, and that there was sufficient bone at a screw access depth of 60 x 60 mm was performed, and it confirmed a perfectly centred implant position (Figs. 22 & 23).

Intraoral scan
Eight days after surgery, the patient reported that healing was uneventful and the prosthodontist removed the stitches. It has become the author’s standard protocol to perform an intraoral scan for implant positioning in this same session (Figs. 24 & 25). The specific and unique PEK Healing abutment used has an internal circular channel and on one side, normally positioned on the buccal aspect, a vertical rectangular slot (Fig. 26). After removing the PTFE tape used to plug this area during surgery, a ScanPac can be positioned inside the healing abutment. This allows for a unique scanning procedure without removing the healing abutment, thus avoiding disturbing the healing tissue or dislocating recently placed biomaterials. The producer provides libraries for STL files of the five different anatomical shapes — wide incisor, narrow incisor, canine, premolar and molar—that determine the basic profile of the gingival tunnel during healing.

Temporary crown
The surgeon indicated that the healing abutment may be removed after four weeks. By then, the temporary screw-retained crown had already been fabricated by the technician, who had prepared a CAD/CAM-milled acrylic tooth gland on to a Neoss NeoLink abutment (Figs. 27–30). As a result of the decision to place the implant entirely in native bone, the angulation was such as to locate the screw access hole of the provisional on the buccal aspect. This can be easily camouflaged by a simple composite filling after plugging the channel with PTFE tape. The gingival profile copies in this first stage of loading the central incisor anatomy of the Neoss Esthetic Healing Abutment (Fig. 31).

Tissue conditioning
As evidenced by the aesthetic analysis before treatment, it was clear that symmetry with the contralateral incisor would be impossible. The implant was placed slightly distal because the distal papilla normally has a narrower mesiodistal basis than the central papilla. The tissue volume augmentation helped to obtain the necessary quantity of gingiva to shape nice papillae, leaving a minimal gap. The soft tissue architecture was conditioned (Fig. 32) by adding composite to the temporary crown and grinding material wherever necessary until the prosthodontist and the patient felt an optimal result had been achieved.

Transfer of the profile
A new intraoral scan sequence was performed. First was the scan of the
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full arch with the temporary crown in place. The provisional was then re-
moved from the mouth and screwed on to an implant replica fixed to a sta-
bility support with wax. The second screw, referred to in Figs 3a&b, was used for retentive reasons around the tooth and the gingival profile can be duplicated in a reliable way.

Definitive crown

The laboratory prefers screw-
retained devices. Owing to the an-
gulation of the implant, it was nec-
 essary to relocate the screw access hole. In CAD, the design for a cobalt-
chromium support that copied the gingival profile of the temporary was prepared, and the screw access was brought to the palatal aspect (Fig. 7). The file was sent to the Arc solutions milling centre in Helsingborg in Swe-
den. High-quality material and CAM production guarantee an excellent outcome in terms of connection and smooth surfaces (Figs 38–40). The technician layered feldspathic ceramics to obtain the final anatomy and texture. The patient was totally satisfied with the result and did not wish for intervention for the maxi-
largely right central incisor. Minor gin-
gival asymmetries, though evident, at high magnification in photogra-
phy, are not really disturbing when viewed at social distance if all other parameters, like colour, incisal edge, tooth texture, correct proportion of the incisal two-thirds of the tooth and transitions, are respected (Figs 4P–4G).

Conclusion

Innovative technologies enable extremely accurate diagnosis and treatment planning. Affordable high-quality CBCT has profoundly changed our profession. In the cur-
current case, the detailed X-Mind triumph 3D images allowed for planning and performing implant placement in the optimal mesiodistal position. Correct distances to the lateral inci-
 sor and the nasopalatine duct were obtained. Final choices will always re-
main related to the experience, skills and equipment of the performing team. After collecting all of the neces-
sary information and knowing what technology can provide, it is possible that one team will opt for CBIR and monolithic crowns, whereas another team might try to minimise the invasive-
ness of surgery and employ innova-
tive milling strategies to deliver a predictable, beautiful solution. In the actual challenging buccopalatal di-

New materials for a classic indication

Cementation of all-ceramic restorations using Variolink Esthetic

By Drs Eduardo Mahn & Juan Pablo Sánchez, Chile

Zinc phosphate cements are seen as classic luting materials for the ce-
mentation of metal-ceramic crowns. Along with all-ceramic materials, glass ionomer cements (GICs) and resin-modified glass ionomer ce-
ments (RMGICs) were introduced. Generally, luting cements are ex-
pected to meet certain require-
ments: they should provide an op-
timum bond to the tooth structure and restorative material, must not be soluble in water, should be suit-
able for application in thin coatings and should offer long-term stabil-
ity. This is in contrast to the proper-
ties of classic cements, which are water soluble and do not establish an adhesive bond to the enamel or dentine (zinc phosphate cements) or establish only a minimally adhesive bond and only to the dentine (GICs and RMGICs). Nonetheless, these cements show reasonable survival rates if used for the appropriate in-
dication even if they have certain limitations.

Problem 1: Opacity

The opacity of the luting material is a critical issue for all-ceramic crowns, as well as ceramic inlays and onlays. Almost any colour can theoretically be reproduced with ceramics by ex-
ploting their natural translucent proper-
ties. Using an opaque luting material appears to be counter-pro-
duction. Therefore, further research is needed in this field. For instance, if a tooth is restored with a veneer, the basic shade of the tooth is main-
tained, whereas the enamel is replaced, usually by using a translu-
cent ceramic that covers the natural dentine. In such a case, it is essential to use a translucent luting material to avoid a mismatch that will be visible to use a luting material that is

Problem 2: Adhesion

The comparatively low bond strength of conventional cements is also problematic. Classic prepara-
tions around the tooth create a high degree of friction and retention. However, the retention is signifi-
cantly reduced with partial crowns, veneers or onlays. It is therefore ad-
vantageous to use a luting material that is capable of providing a strong adhe-
sive bond. Both problems led to the widespread use of luting composite

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