incision made. A pouch is made in the buccal tissues and the connective tissue is reflected back on itself. A narrow healing abutment is then placed to hold the graft in place and suturing is rarely required.

Zircon or titanium?
Usually two weeks is left between exposing the fixture head and taking impressions. The decision needs to be made as to whether to use a zirconium or titanium abutment. Titanium has been around for a long time and is known to work. However, zirconium appears to give a better soft tissue response as anecdotally it has been noted that tissue appears to be attracted towards it. Gold abutments should be avoided as the catalytic action between the titanium implant and the gold abutment can result in bone loss. Gold abutments appear to be ‘tissue tolerant’ rather than showing ‘tissue integration’.

Either way, the abutment can be torqued down onto the fixture head and a laboratory provisional made if further tissue maturation is required. This provisional crown can be totally fabricated in the lab or the lab can make a temporary coping that allows chair-side fabrication from the wax-up. If the soft tissue has healed, the final crown can be manufactured. If allowing for tissue maturation, this can take anything from three to six months, depending on the degree of maturation required. It is important not to compress the tissues too much as this can cause shrinkage and recession of the soft tissue. In fact the temporary crown is deliberately left under-contoured as this allows the gingiva to ‘grow’ down onto the temporary crown, and so appearing to grow. A cement vent is also easily incorporated (see below).

Choosing crown material
The final impressions can be taken as for conventional crown and bridge. Again choices need to be made between what materials to use for the crown, be it porcelain bonded to metal crown or an all porcelain crown. Our preferred method is to have the laboratory make the permanent coping on the final abutment made previously. For pick up in the master impression when the time is right for this (depending on tissue maturation).

The final crown can be cemented with permanent cement or provisional cement depending on your preferred choice, but ensure that no excess is left around the margins which will induce an inflammatory reaction and cause gingival irritation and recession. For this reason many authors now advocate a cement vent within the palatal surface of the crown to allow exces cement to vent away and not be forced...
into the sulcus. Some authors prefer a single screw retained abutment and crown in one piece but this can be harder to use in the aesthetic anterior zone.

Case study 1
This case demonstrates an immediate placement and immediate loading scenario. See Figures 1 to 11. The final restorations involved a single implant retained crown and three porcelain laminate veneers to allow even size distribution or symmetrical and correctly sized centrals would not have been possible without a midline diastema.

Case study 2
This case illustrates a delayed placement and delayed loading protocols. A single implant supported crown and a separate crown were placed as both units required restoring, one as it was a space and the other to allow and aesthetic improvement in the previous crown. See Figures 12 to 22.

Conclusion
Implant dentistry and our understanding of what can be predictably achieved have moved forward enormously over the last few years and technology is helping us achieve some wonderful results. However, it must be remembered that there are no short cuts if the ideal result is to be achieved.

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Luke Barnett Ceramics for the laboratory work.

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Dr David Bloom, a graduate of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Dental School, has been a principle at Senova Dental Studios since 1980, focusing on comprehensive restorative and cosmetic dentistry. A full member of the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, David is also the President of the BACD and began his appointment in November 2007. He is a member of The British Society of Occasional Studies, The British Society of Restorative Dentistry, The British Dental Association and is a sustaining member of The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AADC). He is also a fellow of the International Academy of Dental Facial Aesthetics. David is on the editorial board of The journal of Cosmetic Dentistry – the official journal of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, and clinical director of CO-OP8 seminars and instructs and lectures on all aspects of cosmetic dentistry in the UK and the US.

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Enhanced effectiveness of aesthetic anterior restorations by immediate implant placement

By Frank C. Lazar & Alexandra Steup, Germany

A nterior tooth restoration remains a sophisticated aim in prosthodontics and oral implantology. Scientifically it is highly evident that early loss of alveolar bone results in a progressive loss of the surrounding soft tissues. Whilst conventional implant treatment dictates an overall treatment time of sometimes one to one and a half years, immediate implant placement will determine a reduced interval of as little as about three months. Criteria for immediate implant placement reduce their indications, but evidently there are additional benefits like diminished alveolar resorption, patient morbidity and reduced expenses.

However, vestibular bone defects of the extraction sockets, as a result of the surgical extraction process itself and/or peri-odontitis, will exclude patients from the therapy of immediate implants.

Well grounded rules for an immediate protocol and trans-mucosal healing dictate careful extractions and no flap elevations as well as precise plaque control and, if necessary, careful tissue management.

A non-congruent socket-to-implant relationship, however, will require further barrier techniques like membranes or direct augmentation of harvested bone particles.

Concerning the crown design, occlusal contacts as well as lateral contact during chewing must be strictly avoided (immediate implant placement without immediate loading). After three months the definitive prosthetic work with correct occlusion and aesthetics can be incorporated.

Even by choosing a therapy of delayed immediate implant placement (six weeks following extraction) hard and soft tissue loss is not avoidable. Hartmann and Steup structured the various options for a successful implant treatment in the anterior region in the following way:

1. Single-stage immediate implants with
   a. customised tissue contouring abutments
   b. definitive crowns
2. Delayed immediate implants placed six to eight weeks post extraction with
   a. immediate impression taking and insertion of the definitive crown after implant exposure
   b. soft tissue contouring with provisional crowns/abutments followed by definite crown insertion.

The following case report, based on the first option (single-stage immediate implants) represents a procedure which has been used widely and whenever possible in our unit. The customisation of the surround-

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