Benefits of the Flapless MIMI® Minimally Invasive Dental Implantation Method

Dr Armin Nedjat, dentist, Implantology specialist, Diplomate ICOI, CEO Champions-Implants GmbH presents a case

Discussion
Some questions have been raised by patients who were very satisfied with the MIMI® treatment, such as: “Why don’t all dentists use the MIMI® method?” “Why did some dental clinics plan to

MIMI® stands for the “flapless” and periosteum preserving Minimally Invasive Method of Implantation, which avoids the creation of a flap. For dentists or dental surgeons who use the conventional implantation method, this flapless surgery technique is an alternative treatment option. It offers the possibility of placing implants with perceived less bleeding and less patient discomfort. Following implantation, patients can be provided with excellent prosthodontic restorations. In fact, more and more patients opt for a MIMI® treatment, which has proven beneficial.

Our priority is the benefit for the patient instead of financial profit. Thanks to MIMI®, many patients will become real fans of your dental office. If dentists are also very motivated, they will contribute to success and a good atmosphere in the dental office.

A patient had visited three big dental clinics in Germany who said that he had to be treated with the conventional implantation method. He was told that the treatment would cost 36,000 Euros! Therefore, the frustrated patient looked for another dental office. This patient, who then lived in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, presented to our dental office in Palma de Mallorca. He had a bone height of 8-10 mm on both sides. In my view, a sinus lift on both sides and bone transplantation were not recommended in this case because they could have been harmful for the patient. These methods are no longer considered as the “lege artis” treatments. In fact, clinical studies on the benefits of MIMI® and long-term comparative studies on flapless surgery have now been conducted.

From dentists or dental surgeons who use the conventional implantation method, this flapless surgery technique is an alternative treatment option’

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perform a bone augmentation each time? Why should the whole treatment take almost a year and cost much more than the MIMI® treatment although with MIMI®, I hardly felt any pain and the treatment was completed within a few days?"

It is important to be mindful of the primary goal of performing a non-traumatic and painless implantation successfully such as the MIMI® minimally invasive surgical procedure, which makes bone augmentations unnecessary. For us as dentists, our priority is the benefit for the patient. Instead of bragging about our know-how and skills, the successful results should be the priority for every profession. For instance, the goal of a pilot is not to brag about brilliant flight maneuvers but to ensure that the airline passengers have a good and safe flight to the right destination. Our objective as dentists is not to show patients how well we can perform complicated implantations, flap open the mucosa, suture, and perform bone augmentations. Instead, it’s the successful treatment result that counts. When implanting using MIMI®, bone augmentations can be avoided in about 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the cases. In cases where implants can be immediately loaded (if there are more than three implants/teeth that can be splinted), restorations can be fit immediately, sometimes already within five days! Implantology conferences are sometimes oriented towards classical implant industry, which tends to be influenced by industry-led dogmas and which tends not to be adapted to the day-to-day work in dental offices. Sometimes, lecturers who have not had enough hands-on experience in dental offices for years talk about these dogmas. Current studies have cast doubt on these conventional assumptions. These theories have sometimes been emphasised during conferences by referring to studies of the eighties that have been increasingly questioned. For instance, some dentists said that flapless minimally invasive implantation would require the use of a UV-based navigation-guided drilling template, which has not been proven true for all dental implant systems and bone condensing dental implant systems.

In order to place a Champions® implant, you slowly drill in the bone with small-diameter conical triangular drill at a drilling speed of 250 rpm. The mucosa thickness is measured with the drill. Then, before placing the implant, the bone cavity is checked with a BCC (Bone Cavity Check) probe. Primary stability was obtained with a torque ranging from 40-60 Ncm. Since at least 8 implants/teeth were necessary to support a fixed restoration, 11 implants were placed for static reasons. Results of DT imaging show the optimal distribution in both quadrants. An impression can be made without transfer caps because the four grooves of the square-shaped one-piece Champions® allow a reliable transfer of the clinical situation to the model in the laboratory.

implantological point of view, inserting a 4.5 mm or 5.5 mm-diameter Champions® implant with force can cause poor peri-implant nutrition if sufficient primary stability could also have been achieved with an implant with a diameter of less than 4.5 mm. In addition, the use of drill templates is not always useful, but it is essential to feel bone with the BCC probe. Actually, the dentist himself/herself can evaluate the clinical situation better than any computer software-guided navigation system. Scientific studies on the accuracy of the placement of implants that were assisted by a navigation-guided template have shown apical deviations of 1000 µm on average. Drilling templates are particularly useful when the diameter of the drilled cavity with cylinder drills is almost the same as the diameter of the implant that will be placed.

One of the benefits of the flapless MIMI® method is that the implant serves as osteotome. Bone can be well-nourished by the intact periosteum. That’s nature!

Summary: MIMI® does not require the mucoperiosteal flap reflection, and excellent soft tissue and hard tissue conditions can be observed after surgery. In recent years, literature has shown that the flapless MIMI® method, which has been applied since 1994, is very beneficial. Classical implantation methods have been increasingly questioned. MIMI® treatment has been shown to be effective in protecting bone and significantly reducing the risk of inflammatory soft tissue conditions in the first 12 weeks post surgery.

The peri-implant bone is almost completely nourished by the histological, double-layered membrane of the bone, which is richly supplied with blood vessels and nerve fibers: the inner cambium layer (Stratum osteogenenum) is rich in cells. It is composed of stem cells (osteoblasts), ensuring bone regrowth, as well as of nerves and blood vessels. The outer fibrous layer (Stratum fibrosum) is connective tissue, which is not
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You can find several clinical cases and articles on the website.
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cell-rich but rich in collagen fibers. The Sharpey's fibers, which pass from the outer layer through the inner layer, are embedded in the Substantia compacta of the bone and secure the periosteum to the bone. The iatrogenic detachment of the periosteum can lead to poorly nourished bone after weeks, months or years. Following radiologic examination, pocket depths of more than 5mm, bleeding and peri-implant inflammation are clinically diagnosed as crater-shaped defects and bone loss around the implant. In combination with D2 to D4 bone spreading during implantation, 3.0 mm or 3.5 mm-diameter implants can also be placed in a narrow jaw, and the implants will be surrounded by sufficiently solid bone in all dimensions. If flapless surgery is performed correctly, there will be very little risk of bone resorption or loss or soft tissue loss. With flapless surgery, optimal bone nutrition can be ensured on the long-term. Recent studies in conjunction with immediate restoration/ immediate loading have shown that flapless surgery results in good bone nutrition and good soft and hard tissue outcomes[15]. For 18 years, these techniques have been performed with the Champions® implants and other implant systems.

A flapless MIMI®-treatment should be performed by an experienced Implantology specialist because if the mucosa is not flapless opened, beginners in Implantology might fear not to see exactly in which precise site they are to insert the implant. Contrary to what skeptics might think, MIMI® surgery, which is related to key-hole surgery, is not a “blind procedure”. Before inserting the implant, it is an absolute must to palpate and check the bone cavity thoroughly in all dimensions by means of a BCC (Bone Cav-ity Check) probe each time after drilling and each step. You should be able to feel solid bone in all dimensions. Not only is it necessary that the surgeon and the implantologist have considerable manual dexterity and a lot of experience with implantology and with the MIMI® procedure (and eventually also with the classical “full-flap” method) to apply the MIMI® method successfully, a suitable implant system is also necessary for the MIMI® method.

Thanks to the MIMI® technique, augmentation (external sinus lift or bone transplantation) can be avoided in many cases.

References available from the publisher