A simple, esthetic and inexpensive technique for a custom implant abutment

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In implant reconstruction, the dimension from the implant platform to the crest of tissue, especially in esthetically critical areas, is often more than 2 mm. Many implant manufacturers supply a straight abutment for cement with the implant, which significantly can reduce the cost to the dentist. However, these abutments tend to have a margin about 1 mm tall, which limits their use to relatively thin tissue.

The problem with using a short margin abutment with thick tissue is that the margin ends up in an area where it can be impossible to clean up all the excess cement, leading to periodontal infection (“cementoma”). There are several options available currently:

• Purchase an abutment with a taller machined margin, which the dentist can prep to the desired height and contour. This can work, but there is the additional expense of the abutment and the possibility of the metal abutment showing through thin tissue.

• Zirconia abutments, which can be either prepared or custom milled, such as the Atlantis abutment. These work well but add expense to the case. The zirconia is also always a white color.

• A third option is herein described, where the straight abutment is modified with porcelain to create a custom abutment at minimal cost and improves esthetics.

This patient desired a dental implant to replace tooth #8. She was referred by another general dentist for this treatment, and she was not interested in other cosmetic treatment of her other teeth (Fig. 1).

The tooth had a split root that rendered it unrestorable (Fig. 2). The tooth was removed and a denture tooth bonded to place as a temporary. Eight weeks after extraction, a flap was raised and the implant placed (Fig. 3) (13 x 3.7 mm ScrewPlant, Implant Direct).

Due to the buccal bone loss, some grafting was required over the implant. A core of autogenous bone was harvested (Fig. 4) past

AO’s meeting showcases presentation innovations

The Academy of Osseointegration’s 2009 Annual Meeting will introduce presentation innovations, designed to enhance the value of the Feb. 26-28 event for attendees at the San Diego Convention Center.

“High-definition projection will be featured again this year in the main ballrooms on a 20-foot by 60-foot screen; the largest transportable seamless screen available for the convention center,” said AO Executive Director Kevin P. Smith. Innovations introduced this year include electronic signage and live presentation of sessions from the main ballrooms to a special viewing area in the exhibit hall. Four electronic digital signs will be located in strategic places throughout the convention center. “These new electronic signs will enhance the communication features of the annual meeting, giving attendees up-to-date information on last-minute program or meeting changes and reminders about social gatherings and other special events,” Smith said.

Signs located in the meeting section of the convention center will display information about the current and upcoming plenary session programs. Announcements will be posted throughout the San Diego Convention Center. (Photo courtesy of stock.xchng.)