temporary abutment and crown were then placed back in the mouth. The impressions were sent to our lab technician, who then poured the model with the implant lab analog in place and sent it to Atlantis with the correct prescription. In this case, a zirconium anatomical abutment was prescribed with the facial margin prescribed for 1 mm subgingival and the lingual margin .75 subgingival.

Atlantis then sent the case back to our lab technician, who made the case ready to fabricate the crown. Photographs to assist with shade selection were also enclosed with the case. An Empress crown was then fabricated and the case returned to my office.

The Atlantis Abutment was tried in (Fig. 3). Note the excellent tissue contours and the width of the custom abutment (a discussion of custom abutments is below).

The crown was then placed and custom shaded. On most anterior cases, custom shading by painting the desired porcelain shades on the crown in the mouth and then re-firing the crown allows for subtle changes that can truly enhance the final outcome. After re-firing, the crown bonded into place.

Figure 4 exhibits the completed restoration at the time of cementation. Careful observation reveals an intact papilla, correct anatomic contours of the abutment, healthy and firm gingival tissues and an excellent shade, contour and glaze effect that blends with the natural dentition.

Discussion

• Implant type: There are distinct advantages to using bone level implants in the anterior area, especially with immediate extraction and placement cases. This allows for the use of custom abutments, which mimic the anatomy and shape of the natural tooth.

• Abutments: Many companies make custom abutments. Atlantis is an exceptional company that will work with your lab, and its work is outstanding. The company fabricates anatomical abutments to the correct shape and width of the tooth at the gingival margin. As indicated above, specifications to the placement of the margin enhances the health and esthetics of the crown.

• Soft tissue: Using the immediate extraction/implant placement/immediate provisionalization technique allows for the preservation of soft tissue and papilla architecture. Using a “plastic” temporary abutment that can be prepped allows for fabrication of a nicely contoured provisional crown that prevents the collapse and deterioration of these structures.

• Esthetics: The advent of custom zirconium abutments allows the use of all-ceramic crowns. Emax and Empress restorations are two systems that allow control of the translucency, glaze and custom shading.

Implant esthetics and use is on the rise as patients are more educated and savvy than in the past. This is an exciting time to be doing implants and restorative care. Patients like not using a flipper for the interim period. These techniques allow the dentist more predictable and successful restorative prosthetics.

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