The following article describes the esthetic loading (EL) of dental implants. EL of implants means placing an implant in an esthetic location then putting an esthetic temporary on it. After the implant is allowed to heal, an esthetic restoration is done. This article will also give the dentist insight into which factors will make EL implants most successful and acceptable to patients.

Introduction

We live in the era of esthetics. Patients’ esthetic demands drive dentistry, and esthetic loading of implants is one way today’s dentist can address these demands. A study by Schnitman describes the placement and loading of implants. Schnitman and other authors have identified several factors that are helpful in predicting the successful placement and loading of implants. These factors include bone quality, implant length, extent of loading, implant surface, initial stability and, of course, experience of the surgeon.

When placing an implant in an esthetic location, there is a simple method, highlighted by Garber and Salama, that one can follow to maximize esthetic results. First, the practitioner should evaluate the lip’s form, shape and position and determine whether the patient has a high, medium or low smile line. If the patient has a high smile line, there may be a higher esthetic hurdle to overcome. Patients with high smile lines will see every part of a new restoration with every smile. By contrast,