

## COMMENTARY

## Three-Dimensional Esthetic Analysis in Treatment Planning for Implant-Supported Fixed Prosthesis in the Edentulous Maxilla: Review of the Esthetics Literature

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This article by Dr. Avinash Bidra presents an excellent review of the pertinent literature associated with treatment planning for esthetic success with implant-supported fixed prostheses in the edentulous maxilla. The topic is well organized, thoroughly discussed, and is presented with appropriate clinical examples. Particularly important is the quality of the literature cited and reviewed. This list of references should serve as a clinical library for any clinician who elects to restore edentulous patients with dental implants. It would serve clinicians well to read each of the references cited.

The author starts by stressing fundamental treatment planning guidelines and emphasizing the importance of constructing a quality provisional complete denture for edentulous patients, which meets all necessary esthetic guidelines. The clinical technique of removing the labial flange at the try-in stage to evaluate lip support is a key to successful management of patient expectations. Also stressed by the author is the concept of implant placement based primarily on the esthetic treatment plan but clearly also understood is the thought that ideal implant positions are fundamental to speech.

The article correctly supports the concept of strategic tooth retention for fixed provisionalization during implant healing when appropriate. This technique enables teeth in ideal positions to preserve key esthetic and anatomic landmarks before their removal.

The author then logically divides the assessment of esthetic parameters into three areas of view: superior-inferior, medial-lateral, and anterior-posterior. A thorough literature and clinical review of each of these views follows with a clear discussion of what can and cannot be controlled by the clinician. As important is the discussion of when a fixed prosthesis cannot be achieved and the patient is better served by an implant retained removable denture.

The posterior extension of an implant-supported fixed prosthesis is reviewed in the smile width section. A broader discussion in this section may have included some thoughts on managing patient education so the trade-off of attempting to optimize posterior esthetics versus optimizing function with a fixed prosthesis can be properly presented to the image conscious patient. This may be the basis for another article.

In summary, this is the kind of article that the clinician will need to read through slowly and deliberately for a full understanding of the nuances of this restorative therapy and perhaps reread if necessary to get the full message of this important topic.

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