

## COMMENTARY

Treatment Planning Challenges in the Maxillary Anterior Region Consequent to Severe Loss of Buccal Bone<sup>1</sup>

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The best part of what we do, as dental practitioners, is to help our patients out of difficult situations. Rarely do we come across a situation that fits into a cookbook scenario and, therefore, we must use all the tools in our armamentarium to devise an interdisciplinary plan that best fits the patient's situation and desires. The authors present a case report of an extremely compromised esthetic situation involving periodontal and orthodontic dilemmas. A predictable outcome is many times difficult to achieve when compounded by a lack of both hard and soft tissues. As we all must do, the authors gather information of the situation, develop a diagnosis, and formulate the plan with the patient's desires in mind.

Contemporarily, the typical therapeutic response to missing teeth is to use dental implants as anchorage for a prosthetic device. In situations such as the one described, there are many roadblocks to their use. To this end, the authors put down, on paper, their thought process for formulating a treatment plan and present this decision process in table form from which a more traditional periodontal–prosthodontic approach is taken. One may agree or disagree with the authors leaning toward one modality over another; but the rationalization is organized in a way that can help guide practitioners in similar clinical scenarios.

Dealing with the myriad of different prosthetic and surgical techniques along with materials selection will continue to be an art as well as a science for many years to come. Although this is but a single case report of how a patient with a severe esthetic defect can be effectively treated, we are able to glean a “pearl” or two that might benefit our next patient.

## REFERENCE

1. Bidra AS, Chapokas AR. Treatment planning challenges in the maxillary anterior region consequent to severe loss of buccal bone. *J Esthet Restor Dent* DOI 10.1111/j.1708-8240.2011.00475.x.

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