COMMENTARY

A Novel Method for Creating an Optimal Emergence Profile Adjacent to Dental Implants[1]

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The authors begin their technique paper by presenting a good review on the rationale for the need to develop an esthetic emergence profile.[1] Without proper planning and technical execution, it can be very challenging to fabricate a natural-appearing tooth replacement. This goal, without doubt, is one of the most difficult challenges the restoring dentist can face.

As stated by the authors, there have been numerous descriptions in the literature describing techniques to achieve esthetic emergence profiles for dental implant restorations. The aim is to do this in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The technique described may fit this bill. It is prefabricated and begins the esthetic emergence at the time of implant placement which allows the tissues to heal against a form that is similar to the recently extracted tooth. They compare this with a lab-fabricated provisional in which the contour is carved into the soft tissue model which they describe as an "arbitrary" form. My contention is that this may be less "arbitrary" than the preformed healing abutments because the contours are designed according to the patient's presenting anatomy, and not from an average number taken from a textbook on dental anatomy.

There are other subtleties described in the paper as important as the prefabricated healing abutment that can help lead to the esthetic success of the implant restoration. The minimally traumatic extraction of the diseased tooth, the critical evaluation of the facial plate of bone, and the meticulously placed implant in relation to the tissues and biomechanical issues, all these factors, including the patient's presenting anatomy, help determine the final outcome. The use of the described prefabricated anatomical healing abutment is another useful tool that we can add to our armamentarium to help us expedite our patients' therapy.

REFERENCE

1. Becker W, Doerr J, Becker BE. A novel method for creating an optimal emergence profile adjacent to dental implants. J Esthet Restor Dent DOI 10.1111/j.1708-8240.2012.00525.x.

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