

Editorial

Implants in aesthetic zone

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Aesthetics is artistic philosophy that aims at understanding the nature and meaning of beauty. While aesthetics may be the theory of beauty, it is in the broad sense, also a philosophy of art. The advent of osseointegrated implants has significantly impacted the way restorative dental procedures are formulated, planned and implemented. Aesthetic implant placement has been well documented in the treatment of fully and partially edentulous patients and can be predictably applied for single-tooth replacement, perio-prosthetic rehabilitation, and immediate tooth replacement.

The elusive dream of replacing missing teeth with an artificial analog has been a part of dentistry for a thousand years. The coincidental discovery, by Dr. P.I. Brånemark and his co-worker, of the tenacious affinity between living bone &

titanium oxides termed 'Osseointegration' propelled dentistry into a new age of reconstructive dentistry. The last decade has seen a total change in the demands from implant dentistry from function to esthetics, with esthetics enhancing the patient's need and desires.

To achieve a successful esthetic result and good patient satisfaction, implant placement in the esthetic zone demands a thorough understanding of anatomic, biologic, surgical, and prosthetic principles. Placement of dental implants in the esthetic zone is a technique-sensitive procedure with little room for error. In the aesthetic zone, accurate implant positioning provides a delicate balance between appearance and function.

In the "aesthetic zone," such as the anterior maxilla, A number of additional

factors regarding implant positioning in the aesthetic zone should be emphasized; these include smile line, lip support, lip thickness, facial symmetry, quantity and quality of the soft tissues, emergence

profile, type of prosthetic components to be used, and the future contour of the final restoration.

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