

Immediate Implant Placement optimizes anterior esthetics— clinical considerations and case report

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Fig. 13

The outcome of esthetic implant-supported tooth restorations in the anterior region of the upper jaw is the greatest challenge both surgeons and prosthodontists are confronted with. The conclusive scientific evidence over the past decade showed invariably that hard and soft tissue loss following tooth extraction can only be prevented by immediate implants. Although their indications are limited in the anterior maxilla, immediate implants should always be considered when an upper incisor would have to be extracted.

However, esthetic aspects, loss of alveolar bone during the extraction process or due to previous periodontal infections may rule out immediate implant placement. Consequently, the risk of minor hard and

soft tissue loss associated with delayed or submerged implant protocols may have to be put up with.

Facing immediate protocols, the surgeon carefully has to consider the subsequent prosthodontic work when placing implants. In detail, it has to be ensured that implant positioning and/or additional bone grafting permits optimal crown design, perfect occlusion and soft tissue restoration of the papilla. Because of the tapering roots of upper anterior teeth, the placement of screw-shaped implants may be more difficult than conical implants. The im-



Fig. 1