# The link between oral health and systemic illness

A case study on the replacement of root canal-treated teeth and titanium implants with ceramic implants

Andrej Früh, Switzerland





### Case description

A female patient presented at our practice for holistic treatment after learning from our website about the possible connections between chronic and acute illnesses and dental health. She complained of digestive issues such as bloating and diarrhoea. Additionally, her sleep was not restful; it was superficial and restless. She also had complaints related to her liver, circulation, nerves, and hearing (tinnitus).

After a thorough clinical, radiological, and additional bioresonance examination (Figs. 1-5), a treatment plan was developed with the patient. This plan included the removal of all root canal-treated teeth, metals, titanium implants, and FDOJs (fatty degenerative osteolysis of the jawbone).

# Surgical procedure

The tooth extractions were performed as atraumatically as possible to preserve the surrounding bone and prevent fractures of the root canal-treated teeth, which frequently occurs due to ankylosis or lack of elasticity. We used ultrasonic surgery techniques for this treatment (ACTEON). Ultrasonic surgery was also used to remove the titanium implants.

For the implant removal, the cortical bone around the cervical portion of the titanium implant was minimally invasively relieved. The titanium implant was then atraumatically removed using an extraction system (NeoBiotech Remover Fixture Kit). First, the abutment crown and the distal extension were removed by loosening the abutment screw. This revealed the full extent of a chronic gingivitis, in-







cluding bleeding around the abutment crown (Fig. 10). Unfortunately, the same clinical picture is observed without exception in all other cases of titanium implant removal.

In one session, the entire upper jaw was restored with ceramic implants following this procedure:

- Extraction of root canal-treated tooth 17—two-part immediate implant.
- Extraction of root canal-treated teeth 12, 11, 22—one-part immediate implants.
- Extraction of titanium implant 24—two-part immediate implant.
- Late implant 25 with a two-part immediate implant and intralift with PRF.
- FDOJ 18.

After removing all the root canal-treated teeth and the titanium implant, all the resulting alveolar sockets were immediately treated with zirconia implants (AWI, Witar). The late implant at position 25 was inserted transgingivally due to a sufficient amount of keratinised gingiva (Fig. 6).

The FDOJ at regio 18<sup>5</sup> could be cleaned much more easily after the removal of root canal-treated tooth 17. The fatty bone tissue "The advantage (of using a splint provisional) is that this technique safely eliminates excessive stress on the immediate implants [...]."

# S INT. SOCIETY OF METAL FREE IMPLANTOLOGY

The innovative specialist society for modern metal-free implantology

# Become a member now!

# **Benefits**

#### Public relations/legal support

Leverage the strength of a dedicated community that actively supports your dental office marketing through strategic public relations. ISMI provides ongoing legal support for its members, including expert legal opinions on recent court rulings.



#### ISMI and ICBI-Dual partnership

The ISMI has maintained a dual membership with the ICBI—International Circle for Biological Implantology—since 2025. This allows members to benefit from a strong international network, high-quality continuing education opportunities, and access to leading scientific expertise in the field of biological implantology.

The ICBI is a scientifically oriented, globally active organisation dedicated to the further development, promotion, and international dissemination of biological implantology. With a clear focus on biocompatible ceramic implants, the ICBI combines scientific depth with clinical relevance—pursuing a holistic, patient-centered approach.





#### Association website with personalised member profiles

Benefit from a custom member homepage and profile, available at no additional cost to all active ISMI members. Through ISMI's patient platform, which offers educational resources and a dentist locator, patients can easily connect with individual member profiles.





#### Newsletter and online knowledge hub

Stay informed about the latest scientific advances, products, and events through the ISMI newsletter. In the online knowledge hub, members can access case studies, insights, and practical tips on metal-free implantology. Engage in discussions with experts and colleagues and enjoy complimentary access to educational videos and specialised articles.

## Professional journal subscription

As part of your ISMI membership, you'll receive the international journal ceramic implants. Published in English, this independent journal appears three times annually, covering professional articles, case studies, research, conference reports, company profiles, industry news, and product updates in the field of metal-free implantology.



#### ISMI e.V.

Office Leipzig
Holbeinstraße 29 | 04229 Leipzig | Germany
Phone: +49 800 4764-000 | Fax: +49 800 4764-100
office@ismi.me | www.ismi.me



10BI

WWW. ismi

International Circle for Biological Implantology



The ICBI is an international association of dental professionals specializing in biological dentistry with a focus on ceramic implants with the intent to advance and spread scientific and clinical knowledge.

Discover the future of ceramic implantology with advanced knowledge, global networking and patient-centered solutions.

Join the circle.

www.icbi.org

International Circle for Biological Implantology
Circle 6
CH-8058 Zürich
Switzerland





"[...] The toxicity of root canal-treated teeth is presented in several studies [...]"









was removed as much as possible with ultrasonic surgery, and the resulting socket was then treated with ozone and PRF and sutured to be salivatight. The removed tissue was sent to IMD Berlin for RANTES determination. The measured RANTES value was 8.67 ng/g (Fig. 17). The reference value is 149.9 pg/ml. The conversion factor from the volume of fatty tissue in pg/ml to the weight of bone tissue in ng/g is 125. Therefore, the lab results from IMD Berlin in ng/g must be multiplied by 125 to get the RANTES expression in the FDOJ tissue sample in the correct ratio to our healthy reference value of 149.9 pg/ml – 8.67 x 125 = 1,083.75 pg/ml. We can see that the calculated value is increased by a factor of 7.23.

For the healing phase, the patient chose a splint provisional (Figs. 8+9). The advantage is that this technique safely eliminates excessive stress on the immediate implants during the healing phase. Another benefit of the splint provisional is a significantly better food comminution. Overall, the provisional restoration of ceramic immediate implants presents a challenge because patients cannot consciously control the load. The practitioner should thoroughly educate the patient on how to protect, care for, and clean the implants to ensure patient compliance. As postoperative medication, the patient only received Ibuprofen 600 mg and mouthwash (Regeno Plasma Liquid®). It should be noted that when using ozone and PRF, traditional antibiotic coverage for three to seven days is not necessary.

Figure 11 shows the extracted root canal-treated teeth and the titanium implant. We can see the distinct brown discoloration of the teeth, which does not only come from the metal in the crowns or posts. The fetid odor of these teeth was also clearly noticeable in the operating room. The toxicity of root canal-treated teeth is presented in several studies by Dr Hans Lechner<sup>1-3</sup>. Another study criti-







cally examines titanium implants and links them to silent inflammation in the jaw<sup>4</sup> (Lechner, Noumbissi, von Baehr).

One week after the surgery, the patient came in for a follow-up appointment (Figs. 15+16). The situation was inflammation-free and very well-healed. Furthermore, the patient reported having hardly any pain and only had to take two painkillers. One day post-surgery, the patient was completely painfree. She managed very well with the provisional and was able to eat without difficulty.







"Natural teeth have the property of slightly intruding under heavy load, while implants do not."

The definitive restoration of the upper jaw took place six months post-surgery. Clearly visible is a perfectly healed clinical situation in the upper jaw (Fig. 19). The osseo-integration of the implants was checked radiologically (Fig. 24) and clinically with a screw-in test. In this test, the implant is loaded up to 25 Ncm. The patient should not experience any discomfort or pain.

In the next step, the two-part implants received either a ceramic or a fiberglass abutment. For the current case, I decided to go with ceramic abutments for implants 17 and 24, and a fiberglass abutment for implant 25. The ceramic abutments were cemented with GPZ, and the fiberglass abutments were placed with composite flow. The implants were then prepared just like natural teeth (Figs. 18+19). Only red-ring diamond burs are recommended for this.

#### Restoration

In the upper jaw, all teeth and implants were restored with pressed ceramic crowns and veneers. Implants 12+11 and 24+25 were splinted in the final restoration to increase the load-bearing capacity of the implants. Teeth 13 and 23 received a palatal veneer to create canine guidance and thereby safely eliminate parafunctional overload on the implants and the patient's own teeth. All other teeth received a single crown (Figs. 20-22). In this case, we had a mix of implants and natural teeth in the posterior segments of both quadrants in the upper jaw. It is essential to ensure the correct occlusal load when adjusting the occlusion. Natural teeth have the property of slightly intruding under heavy load, while implants do not. This can cause a height difference, especially during clenching and grinding at night. This must be considered during prosthetic restoration to avoid failures. Finally, the patient received a Michigan splint (functional therapeutic device according to Dr Reusch) to safely prevent nocturnal overload from grinding and clenching, and at the same time, to relax the muscles and protect the temporomandibular joints.







"For me, ceramic implants are not just an alternative to titanium but are the healthiest way to replace a missing tooth."





# Summary

I have been successfully implementing the holistic treatment concept in my practice for ten years and ceramic implants have proven to maintain a main pillar of fixed dental prosthetics. This case clearly demonstrates the central role of dentistry in a patient's overall health. Zirconia implants work best as immediate implants because the existing natural alveolar socket is used very efficiently, and the patient is spared a second surgery. For me, ceramic implants are not just an alternative to titanium but are the healthiest way to replace a missing tooth.









