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DENTAL IMPLANTS



A Practitioner's Perspective

Case Study No. 3
Evolution of an overdenture
- Geoff Pullen



I've been treating this female patient for well over twenty years. A full-upper bridge, made on badly periodontally involved teeth lasted for the first ten years. Then, because budget was an issue, I placed these three implants and constructed an overdenture back in 1999.



This in turn worked very well. I have had much more success, in terms of patient satisfaction with lower complete overdentures. The uppers seem to work much better if there are a few teeth left.



The trouble came when we lost the only lower molar and the upper denture started to tip with the loss of balance the tooth afforded.



Now this patient, on a somewhat limited budget is concerned more about the upper reconstruction than the lack of lower molars. She agreed with my suggestion to add more upper implants for the support and stability she needed.



So here we go, I place the implants as above, uncover them and use 'sawn-off' plastic impression posts as the healing abutments at second stage. These fit much better under an existing denture. Not the same case below but you can see what I mean.



Then I take out the existing o-ring abutments.



And place the new impression posts ready for a master impression. Red for the 2mm well and green for the 3mm.

The new impression posts from Boston are working out really well. I take the impression with either the plastic sleeves on or off. There are advantages either way.



But I definitely record the occlusion WITHOUT the plastic sleeve. It's cleaner and probably clearer for the technician.



So here are the six new, milled abutments giving me a definite path of insertion for the hybrid denture (removable bridge).



The fitting surface.



Another view. This is ceramag for the teeth and denture acrylic for the soft-tissue/flange.



The finished result. This works like a dream. It doesn't move in function but can be removed to clean.

NB There were some try-in stages and pick-up impressions of the metalwork that I haven't shown here. The decision to make this type of device was because this lady didn't mind a 'denture'. She is a mild skeletal class 3 and needed some lip support that a fixed bridge could never give. And in fact later on we added more bulk to the flanges. An easy add-on with ceramag. And more about the IAC-type resins to come.

If you would like to comment on this article, please email Geoff Pullen on pullenteeth@btinternet.com

