

CLINICAL CASE PRESENTATION

A staged approach to implant therapy for a patient transitioning from partial removable prostheses to fixed implant-supported restorations

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Although restoration of the edentulous maxilla is always challenging, one potentially complicating factor is eliminated if a patient presents with removable prostheses and expresses a desire to replace them with a fixed restoration. This clinical presentation illustrates the use of a staged approach to the transition from partial removable (coping-sleeve) prostheses to delivery of fixed, porcelain-fused-to-metal implant-supported restorations.

Key Words: staged approach, implant-supported restorations, GingiHue® Abutments

Introduction

As has been discussed by Drago and Carpentieri in this journal, creation of a fixed prosthesis requires a sufficient volume of oral space. When the surgical and restorative space is determined to be adequate, attention may shift to the question of how best to temporize the patient between implant placement and delivery of the definitive restoration.

In the following clinical case, the decision was made to continue using the removable, tooth-supported prostheses throughout the initial implant-healing period. However, in the second phase of treatment, extraction of the remaining hopeless natural dentition was accompanied by delivery of a fixed acrylic provisional restoration, substantially accelerating the achievement of the patient's ultimate goal of improved retention. The choice to utilize off-the-shelf titanium abutments to support both the provisional and definitive restorations also simplified the treatment costs and resulted in good soft-tissue healing.

The Decision-Making Process

Patient Preference: Fixed restorations

Patient Finances: Excellent

Clinical Factors: Adequate surgical and restorative space for fixed prostheses

Patient Compliance: Excellent