Socket preservation in the daily practice: A clinical case report

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Often tissue contour depends on the underlying bone anatomy, following tooth extraction, sockets undergoes a remodeling process that influences the implant rehabilitation treatment of the edentulous areas.

Socket preservation procedure following tooth extraction will reduce the need for any further ridge augmentation technique prior to implant placement and will conserve the existing bone. The aim is to preserve the original bone dimensional contours by limiting the normal post extraction resorative process.

The overall goal of this article is to provide the dental professional with valid tools in order to help them make a conscious decision considering the indications of this therapy and dependent on each clinical case.

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Nowadays the outcome of implant surgery is measured by the long-term aesthetic and functional success and not by the survival rate. A correlation exists between the hard and soft tissues in order to assure esthetic outcomes in implant surgery. Significant changes in bone volume and morphology following tooth extraction, can make implant rehabilitation very difficult, as the time from extraction to implant placement increases.

Bone substitute in alveolar ridge preservation and prevention of additional bone grafting is highly supported and has a wide range of advantages. The socket preservation technique allows the placement of implants in sites that was considered compromised in the past. Following the conservative extraction (Figure 1.2), a bone filler is placed in the empty socket with a cross or non-cross linked membrane (Figure 3) and closed partially (Figure 4) or totally by a non-cross linked membrane (Figure 3) and placed in the empty socket with a cross or non-cross linked membrane.

Araujo mentioned in a paper published in 2004, that several surgical techniques have been proposed. Nowadays it is still possible to minimize osseous deformities problems by carrying out the ridge preservation techniques in extraction sockets and using bone fillers materials with barrier membranes.

Today the advanced wide range of bone grafting materials and collagen membranes guides us into taking in charge many compromised cases.

It was noted that the resorption of bone ridge is faster during the first six months following extraction, therefore a conservative approach remains necessary. Many measures should be taken into consideration when conducting the socket preservation surgery such as: reducing the extraction trauma and limiting the flap elevation.

Bone formation occurs over the surface of the implanted osteoconductive graft fillers. This article goes through the technical basis for socket preservation procedure and exposes its importance as an available treatment in order to prevent ridge atrophy and optimize esthetics in the anterior maxillary area.

Clinical Case:
A 49-year-old female with a noncontributory medical history, presented to our clinic with a mobile tooth 21 and an apical resorption, the chief complaint was pressure in the upper anterior left area of the central incisor. Clinical examination showed tooth 21 mobile with gray coloration. Periapical radiograph examination revealed an apical resorption with an incomplete endodontic treatment (Figure 8). The tooth was deemed hopeless and referred for extraction with socket preservation for future dental implant placement.

After tooth was carefully removed with forceps technique (Figure 9), the extraction site was grafted with an osteoconductive bone graft (Figure 10, 11). A resorbable collagen membrane was placed on the buccal aspect of the extraction socket and sutured to the palatal flap to attempt a primary closure, with an exposed membrane left on the occlusal aspect of the extraction socket. A Temporary bridge was placed to guide the healing process and conserve the esthetic in the anterior region (Figure 12). After six months surgical re-entry during implant placement showed a good bony healing, that allowed the placement of a regular platform implant within the bone envelope (Figure 13), and achieved a good primary stability that allowed the placement of single piece, direct-to-fixture provision-
The rate of residual ridge resorption is related to the time extended since the tooth was removed.

Many factors such as trauma can cause loss of alveolar bone, since many extractions are done with no regard for maintaining the alveolar bone volume. With time bone resorption will evolve up to 2 mm in vertical and 4 mm in horizontal directions the first year following the extraction. An article published by Araujo in 2006 showed that implants placed directly after extraction procedures compared to naturally placed implants easier and did not required augmentation similar to implants placed into non-grafted sockets expressed a clinical performance.

It was found that implants placed into grafted sockets expressed a clinical performance similar to implants placed into non-grafted sites in terms of survival and marginal bone loss. On the other hand, grafted sites made the placement of larger implants easier and did not required augmentation procedures compared to naturally healed sites.

Another article published by Araujo in 2009, demonstrated that the placement of a biomaterial in an extraction socket will enhance bone remodeling and compensate the marginal ridge resorption. As shown in the clinical case, the socket preservation technique led to an esthetic success for several reasons, the absence of gray hue in the free gingiva with the preservation of the interproximal bone between tooth 11 and implant 21. The dimension of the preserved bone lead us to place a narrow neck implant in ideal position, the resulting occlusal forces did not cause any overload and conserved an excellent prognosis. It was noted that ridge resorption in the mandible is more than the maxilla. Today the commonly used method for ridge preservation procedure is a bone graft material placed in the extraction socket and covered by a cross or non-cross linked membrane followed by complete or partial flap closure. The decision to use socket preservation technique should be made on a case-by-case basis. Surgeons should familiarize with the wide array of techniques and materials used in order to optimize and preserve the anatomy of bone and soft tissues. The following article offers information that can help clinicians to implement the socket preservation technique in their daily practice. In conclusion the socket preservation technique seems to show important results concerning bone volume conservation and favorable architecture of the alveolar ridge in order to obtain ideal functional and esthetic prostheses after implant rehabilitation.

References: