

# Implants in the Smile Line

## Overcoming Cosmetic Challenges

### Suleiman M

#### INTRODUCTION

Implants placed within the smile line need to have particular considerations compared to other implants.

Many diseased anterior teeth present with bony defects which can require grafting either prior or during implant placement.

The position of the lip is important in getting a good result. If the patient presents with a high lip line then there is an additional challenge of getting the soft tissue correct. Not only does the bony foundation for the implant need to be good but there has to be enough soft tissue to form the gum contour at the correct level.



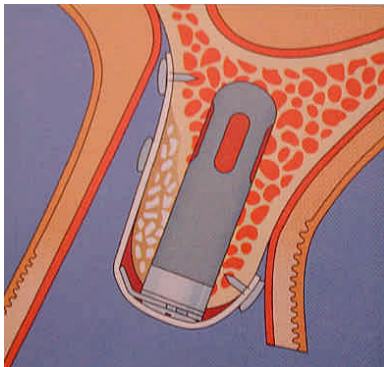
**High Lip-Line**



**Low-Lip**



**Single Use Bone Trap for collecting patient's bone**



**Simultaneous grafting and implant placement**

#### GRAFTING

Improving the bony contour to rebuild a defect can involve grafting from another part of the mouth prior to placing an implant. This then becomes an additional procedure affecting the cost of treatment.

Minor defects can be enhanced at the time of implant placement using a filter which collects the patient's own bone at the time of preparation. This can be mixed with bone substitutes if required. These grafts quite often need protection whilst they are healing and membranes are used to stop any invasion of the material.

Lack of gum tissue can entail a connective tissue graft harvested from the palate to increase gingival bulk.

## TEMPORARY CROWNS

In highly challenging cases it becomes important to register the position of the implant at the time of placement and use this information to produce a temporary crown. This can be fitted when the implant is exposed and the contours of temporary can be used to train the gum to form the correct contour.



## CONCLUSION

Implants in the smile zone present with challenges for the implant surgeon if good aesthetics are to be achieved.

Some of the techniques used to achieve a good appearance have been highlighted. Other techniques also exist including soft tissue grafting and sub-gingival crown placement.

The consequence of these procedures means that anterior implants can cost more than the standard implant and crown.