

CLINICAL CASE REPORTS
USING CYTOPLAST® GTR
BARRIER MEMBRANES





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CLINICAL EDUCATION

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EXTRACTION, IMMEDIATE IMPLANT PLACEMENT AND GUIDED BONE REGENERATION USING A FLAPLESS APPROACH



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

This is a 60 year-old female who presented with a crown-root fracture of a non-vital maxillary right central incisor. The crown was temporarily stabilized with composite resin bonded to the adjacent teeth (Fig 1).

Extraction of the tooth and immediate implant placement was planned. To minimize soft and hard tissue recession, a flapless, minimally invasive extraction technique was employed (Fig 2).

The tooth root was extracted using only an intrasulcular incision. A #15 blade was used to sever the periodontal ligament and create space for root luxation and elevation (Fig 3).

Next, a subperiosteal pocket was created on the buccal and palatal aspect of the socket using a micro periosteal elevator (Fig 4).

Following luxation and initial elevation of the root with the micro elevator, the tooth was removed with forceps (Fig 5).

The interdental papillae were carefully undermined and elevated. This can be done with a small periosteal elevator or curette (Fig 6).

All remaining soft tissue was removed from the interior and margins of the socket with a sharp curette (Fig 7).

The implant osteotomy was done in the standard fashion, with the implant being placed against the palatal wall of the socket (Fig 8).



Fig 9

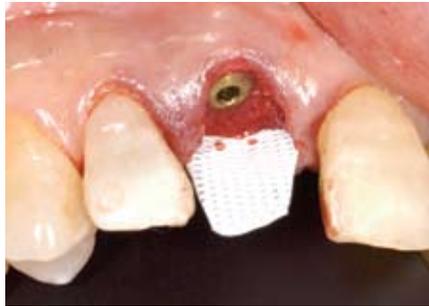


Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12



Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15



Fig 16

The gap between the facial aspect of the implant and the buccal wall was filled with a combination of autogenous bone chips harvested from the implant osteotomy combined with allograft bone (Fig 9).

A textured, high-density PTFE barrier membrane (Cytoplast® TXT-200) is placed. The membrane is trimmed, then placed into the superiosteal pocket on the palatal aspect (Fig 10).

The membrane is then tucked under the facial flap (Fig 11).

Next, the membrane is tucked under the interdental papillae, taking care to keep the edge of the material a minimum of 1.0 mm away from adjacent tooth roots (Fig 12).

A single 3-0 suture (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture; CS0518) is placed to further stabilize the membrane. The membrane is intentionally left exposed, as primary closure is not required in this technique (Fig 13).

Figure 14 shows the surgical site at 3 weeks. The exposed membrane is easily removed by grasping with a tissue forcep. Topical anesthesia may be used, but local anesthesia is not necessary.

The site at 6 weeks after implant placement (three weeks after membrane removal), reveals keratinized mucosa forming across the former extraction site (Fig 15).

Figure 16 shows the clinical view following placement of the implant abutment and acrylic provisional restoration.

SUMMARY

The flapless technique described provides a minimally invasive approach to extraction with socket grafting or immediate implant placement. Because the interdental papilla remains intact, there is less disruption of blood supply. As a result, there is a greater potential for maintenance of soft tissue volume. In addition, the use of a dense PTFE membrane improves the predictability of immediate implant placement, excluding the requirement for primary closure and resultant disruption of soft tissue architecture.

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A DUAL-LAYER MEMBRANE TECHNIQUE FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLANT PLACEMENT IN THE ESTHETIC ZONE



Fig 1a



Fig 1b



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7

This is a 60 year-old female who presented with a crown-root fracture of the maxillary right central incisor. The crown was retained with denture adhesive (Fig 1a and b). A thin gingival biotype and multiple, adjacent porcelain fused to metal restorations increased the esthetic risk in this case. To minimize soft and hard tissue recession, a minimally invasive extraction technique and immediate implant placement combined with guided tissue regeneration was planned.

The tooth root was extracted using only an intrasulcular incision and elevation with a micro periosteal elevator. Following curettage of the socket, an implant was placed towards the palatal wall of the socket. A thin buccal plate was noted. The gap between the implant and the buccal wall of the socket (2.5 mm) was grafted with demineralized allograft bone and beta tricalcium phosphate (Cerasorb®, Riemser Arzneimittel AG) (Fig 2).

To thicken the soft tissue while maintaining the natural position of the mucogingival junction, a dual layer GTR technique was used, employing a cross-linked type 1 bovine collagen membrane covered with a high-density PTFE (dPTFE) barrier membrane (Fig 3).

To stabilize the barrier membranes, a subperiosteal pocket was developed on the facial and palatal aspect of the socket. Next, the bovine collagen membrane (Cytoplast® RTM Collagen) was placed to extend approximately 5 mm beyond the socket margins (Fig 4). To protect the collagen membrane and further stabilize the site, a textured dPTFE membrane (Cytoplast® TXT-200) was placed over the collagen (Fig 5).

Closure was achieved with a criss-cross 3-0 PTFE suture (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture) (Fig 6). Note that primary closure was not required due to the presence of the dense PTFE membrane and its ability to remain exposed without epithelial or bacterial penetration. The suture was removed at 2 weeks, and the soft tissue overlying the exposed membrane demonstrated healing without signs of inflammation.



Fig 8a



Fig 8b



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12

After 4 weeks, the dPTFE membrane was removed non-surgically with topical anesthesia. (Fig 8a and 8b). Immediately following removal of the dense PTFE barrier, the collagen membrane is observed intact and with a developing blood supply (Fig 9).

After four months of healing, the soft tissue is stable with full interproximal papillae (Fig 10) and preservation of the natural mucogingival architecture. To aid in development of soft tissue contours, a removable temporary partial denture was used with an ovate pontic. Radiographically, there is good bone density adjacent to the implant and maintenance of the interdental crest.

The restorative phase included placement of a custom Procera zirconia abutment (Fig 11) and a processed acrylic restoration. After 12 weeks of provisional loading, the soft tissues were stable, with preservation of anatomical contours.

SUMMARY

This case demonstrates the use of a dual-layer technique for immediate placement of implants into extraction sockets. While bone formation and successful integration will occur with a gap as wide as 2.0 mm, as much as 56% of the buccal-palatal width is lost during the early healing phase.¹ This loss of tissue thickness can result in apical migration of the gingival margin, loss of the interdental papilla and discoloration of the soft tissues due to show-through of the underlying dental implant. This technique, using the principles of guided tissue regeneration combined with augmentation of the gap, results in preservation of the natural contours, even in high-risk sites.

1. Botticelli D, Berglundh T, Lindhe J. Hard-tissue alterations following immediate implant placement in extraction sites. *J Clin Periodontol* 2004 Oct;31(10):820-8.

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MINIMALLY INVASIVE SOCKET RECONSTRUCTION USING A HIGH-DENSITY TITANIUM-REINFORCED PTFE MEMBRANE



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

A flapless and minimally invasive approach to socket reconstruction, facilitated by the unique characteristics of titanium-reinforced dense PTFE membrane is illustrated in this case. The patient, a 50 year-old female, presented with a severe buccal wall defect secondary to a vertical root fracture (Fig 1). A chronic fistula was present, but was not actively draining at the time of surgery. The tooth was removed using an intrasulcular incision without reflecting the interdental papillae (Fig 2).

Upon curettage and exploration of the socket, the entire buccal wall was found to be missing. Granulation tissue, which was adherent to the facial flap, was removed with sharp dissection (Fig 3) and the socket was irrigated with sterile saline. Next, a subperiosteal pocket was developed on the facial and palatal aspect of the socket, extending 3 mm beyond the defect margins (Fig 4).

A combination of mineralized and demineralized allograft bone was mixed with approximately 25 mg of clindamycin and placed into the socket (Fig 5). A titanium-reinforced high-density PTFE membrane (Cytoplast® Ti-250 Anterior Narrow) was shaped to completely cover the facial defect and to cover the coronal aspect of the socket, overlapping the defect margins by 3 mm. The membrane was introduced into the facial pocket first (Fig 6) then under the palatal flap (Fig 7) and finally tucked under the interdental papillae, taking care to keep the margins of the membrane at least 1 mm from the roots of the adjacent teeth. The single titanium strut facilitates precise placement and stabilization of the device. Adaptation of the flap to the membrane surface was achieved with a single 3-0 PTFE suture (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture; CS0518) (Fig 8). Note that primary closure was not attempted in an effort to preserve the soft tissue architecture of the site.



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11a



Fig 11b



Fig 12



Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15

After 3 weeks of healing, the soft tissue around the exposed membrane exhibited no inflammation (Fig 9). After four weeks of healing, the membrane was removed non-surgically by simply removing it through the socket opening. At 6 months of healing, there was adequate ridge width for placement of a dental implant as well as maintenance of the soft tissue architecture (Figs 10 and 11a & b).

A biopsy taken at the time of implant placement revealed the presence of 80% vital bone (Fig12). (Histology by Michael Rohrer, DDS, MS.) Complete regeneration of the socket and facial bone contour was evident at the time of implant placement, six months following the grafting procedure (Fig 13).

The implant was exposed at 4 months and restored with a zirconium abutment and all-ceramic restoration (Fig 14). The post-treatment radiograph demonstrates total regeneration of the socket defect and maintenance of the interproximal height of bone (Fig 15).

SUMMARY

There are several advantages of a titanium-reinforced dense PTFE membrane. In defects where an entire wall is missing, there is a tendency for loss of volume as the underlying graft material undergoes consolidation and replacement by vital bone. The addition of the titanium strut provides support to the overlying soft tissue preventing its collapse into the defect, resulting in increased bone volume. Additionally, in a minimally invasive technique such as the one illustrated, the presence of the strut allows the surgeon to precisely position the membrane under flaps with minimal dissection and flap reflection.

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IMMEDIATE IMPLANT PLACEMENT AND SOCKET RECONSTRUCTION USING A HIGH-DENSITY TITANIUM-REINFORCED PTFE MEMBRANE



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3a



Fig 3b



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7

A 55 year-old female presented for implant placement in a recent extraction site. Surgical exposure revealed fibrous healing at the buccal and coronal aspect of the site, requiring augmentation simultaneous with implant placement (Fig 1 and Fig 2) to regenerate the buccal bone contour.

A high-density titanium-reinforced PTFE membrane in a single-tooth configuration (Cytoplast® Ti-250 Anterior Narrow) was trimmed to fit over the defect and then curved over an instrument handle to provide three-dimensional support and stability (Fig 3a and Fig 3b).

Mineralized bone allograft was placed into the defect (Fig 4) and covered with the membrane. The membrane is trimmed to remain 1.0 mm away from the roots of the adjacent teeth, and to extend 3 to 5 mm beyond the defect margins (Fig 5).

Primary closure was achieved using a 3-0 PTFE suture (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture; CS0518) (Fig 6). After four months of uneventful healing, the soft tissue covering the membrane appears healthy prior to implant exposure and abutment placement (Fig 7).

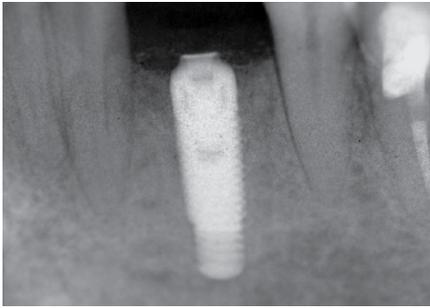


Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12



Fig 13

Four months after implant placement, regeneration of hard tissue is evident radiographically (Fig 8). Exposure of the barrier is accomplished using a u-shaped incision with apical advancement of the keratinized gingiva (Fig 9). The high-density PTFE membrane is easily removed through a conservative incision due to limited soft tissue ingrowth into the barrier (Fig 10).

Clinically, restoration of the full width of keratinized gingiva was observed at the time of abutment placement (Fig 11). After soft tissue healing, the restorative components were placed and the implant was restored with a porcelain fused to metal restoration (Fig 12 and Fig 13).

SUMMARY

This case report demonstrates the successful augmentation of a localized defect involving the entire buccal plate of a recent extraction site. The use of a titanium-reinforced, high-density PTFE membrane provides predictable space-making and regenerative function without the risks associated with highly porous, expanded PTFE devices such as Gore-Tex®.

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RIDGE AUGMENTATION WITH IMMEDIATE IMPLANT PLACEMENT USING A HIGH-DENSITY TITANIUM-REINFORCED PTFE MEMBRANE.

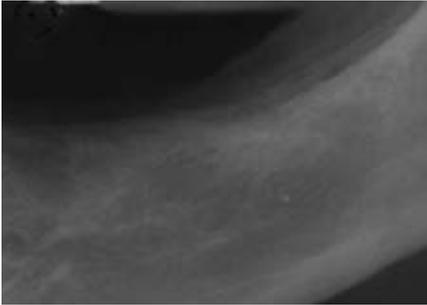


Fig 1

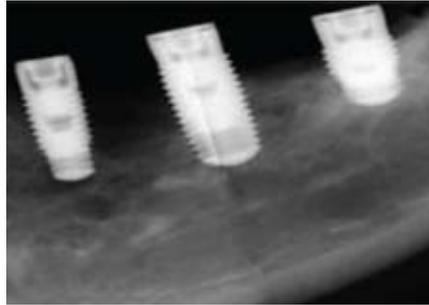


Fig 2

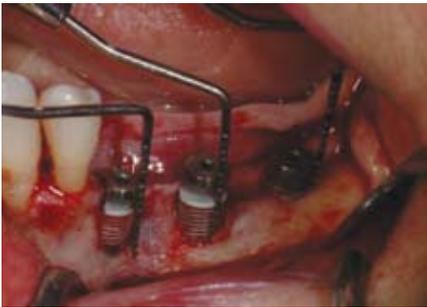


Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

This is a 49 year old female who presented for implant placement in the left posterior mandible. Preoperative radiographs reveal inadequate bone height for ideal implant placement and restoration (Fig 1).

Three tapered implants were placed at second bicuspid, first molar and second molar areas, and the vertical defect was measured from crestal height to the neck of the implant (Fig 2 and 3). The defect measurements at the implant positions were 9 mm, 8 mm and 4 mm respectively. The implant measurements were 3.7 mm x 10 mm, 4.7 mm x 11.5 mm and 4.7 mm x 8 mm, respectively. The alveolar ridge was decorticated and a high-density titanium-reinforced PTFE membrane (Cytoplast® Ti-250 XL) was secured lingually with two pins (Fig 4). This membrane configuration is ideal to cover three implants. The membrane was then bent to a desired three-dimensional shape to provide stability while utilizing the implants as tenting support.

A combination (50:50 ratio) of mineralized cortical and cancellous allograft was hydrated with PRGF and placed around the implants and to the desired crestal height (Fig 5). The membrane was then draped over the graft and trimmed 1 mm from the adjacent tooth and secured with three pins buccally and two pins crestally (Fig 6).

Advancement of the buccal flap is accomplished by the use of a periosteal releasing incision along the full length of the flap. Care is taken to avoid damaging the neurovascular bundle (Fig 7). On the lingual side a new technique developed by the author for the extension of the flap was used (Fig 8). (Ronda M., Stacchi C. Management of coronally advanced lingual flap in regenerative osseous surgery: a case series introducing a novel technique. International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry. In press)



Fig 9



Fig 10

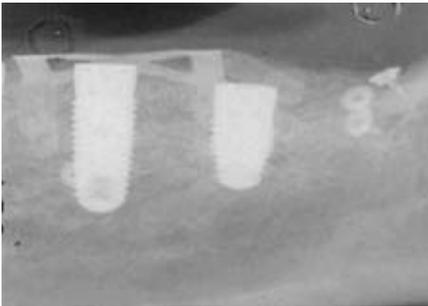


Fig 11



Fig 12

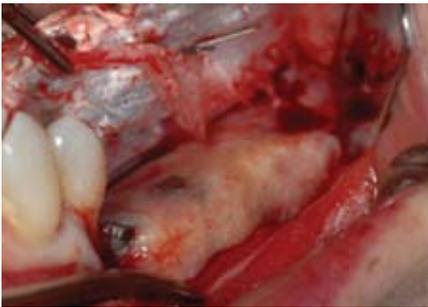


Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15



Fig 16

Primary closure was achieved using 3-0 and 4-0 PTFE sutures (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture) (Fig 9). The sutures were removed at twelve days, and the soft tissue demonstrated healing without signs of inflammation (Fig 10).

At three months, the postoperative radiograph provides evidence of increased alveolar height with this technique (Fig 11). After four months of healing, the augmented site was exposed with a mid-crestal incision (Fig 12). The membrane was removed, revealing an increase in ridge height (Fig 13). Removal of the dense PTFE membrane was greatly simplified due to the limited soft tissue ingrowth into the barrier.

The presence of compact bone can be seen overlying the implants (Fig 14). The excess bone covering the implants was removed and healing caps were placed (Fig 15). After soft tissue healing, the restorative components were placed and a temporary bridge was seated (Fig 16).

SUMMARY

This case demonstrates the successful augmentation of an edentulous posterior mandible in combination with implant placement. The use of a combination cortical and cancellous allograft, hydrated with PRGF, and coverage with a high-density titanium-reinforced PTFE membrane resulted in regeneration of vital bone of sufficient volume and height. This was accomplished in a single surgical procedure, eliminating the need for autogenous block grafting.

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GUIDED BONE REGENERATION USING A HIGH-DENSITY TITANIUM- REINFORCED PTFE MEMBRANE AND CORTICOCANCELLOUS BLOCK GRAFT

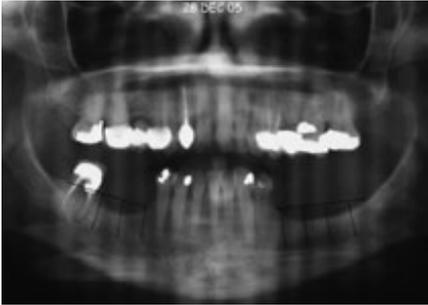


Fig 1



Fig 2

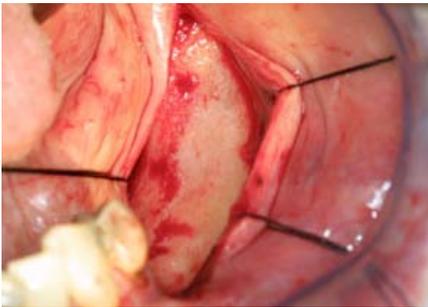


Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

This case illustrates the use of a high-density titanium-reinforced PTFE membrane in conjunction with a corticocancellous block graft.

The preoperative evaluation revealed inadequate height and width for the placement of endosseous implants (Fig 1 and 2). The ridge was exposed with a mid-crestal incision and elevation of a full-thickness mucoperiosteal flap (Fig 3).

A corticocancellous block was harvested from the left ramus (Fig 4) and secured to the deficient alveolar ridge with titanium screws (Fig 5). The gap between the block graft and the ridge was augmented with allograft bone (Fig 5), then covered with a high-density titanium-reinforced PTFE membrane (Cytoplast® Ti-250 Posterior Large) (Fig 6 and 7).

Tension-free primary closure was achieved with a 3-0 PTFE suture (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture; CS0518) (Fig 8).

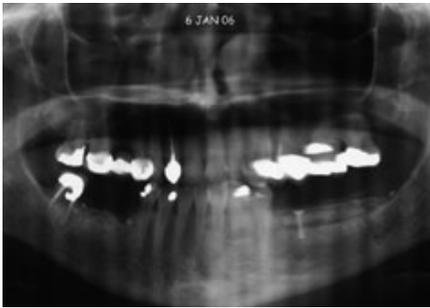


Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12

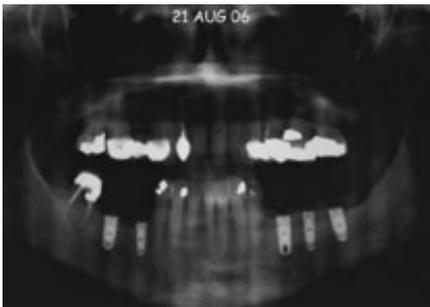


Fig 13

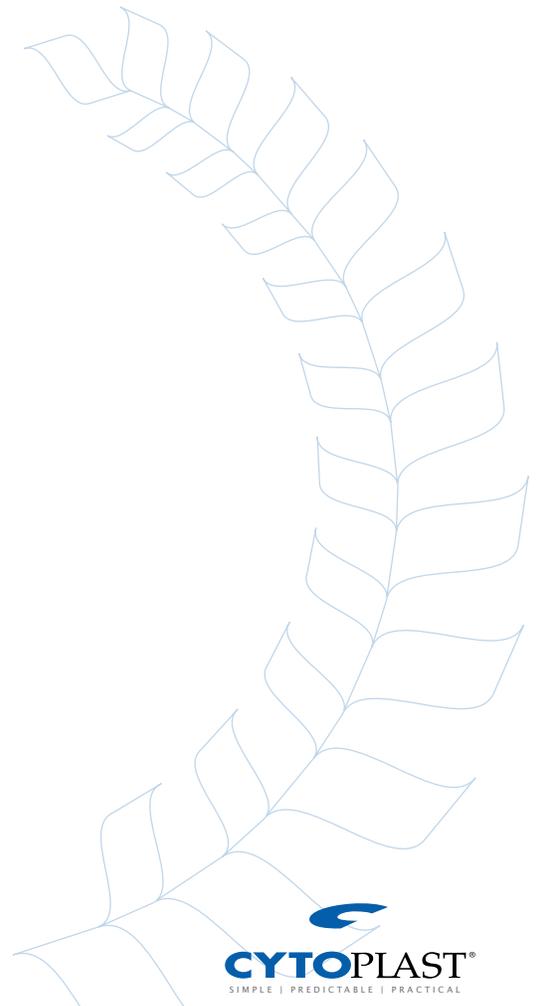
The postoperative panoramic radiograph demonstrates the increased alveolar height achievable with this technique (Fig 9).

8 months later, the membrane was exposed with a mid-crestal incision. (Fig 10 and 11). Compared to expanded PTFE membranes, removal of the dense PTFE membrane is greatly simplified due to the limited soft tissue ingrowth and attachment to the barrier.

An increase in ridge height and width was achieved allowing placement of implants into ideal position (Fig 12 and 13).

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JOEL L. ROSENLICHT, DMD

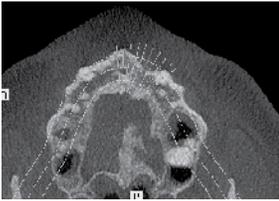


Fig 1a

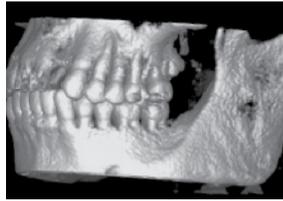


Fig 1b

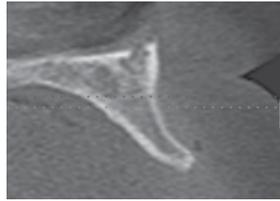


Fig 1c

A 45 year-old male presented with a substantial loss of buccal bone contour and in need of an endosseous implant to replace the maxillary left lateral incisor (Fig 1a-1c).

The alveolar ridge was surgically exposed and decorticated in preparation for bone grafting (Fig 2).



Fig 2



Fig 3

A titanium tenting screw 5.0 mm in length and specifically designed for guided tissue regeneration (JLR Tenting Screw Kit, KLS Martin L.P., Jacksonville, FL) was placed to augment the ridge to a predetermined contour (Fig 3).

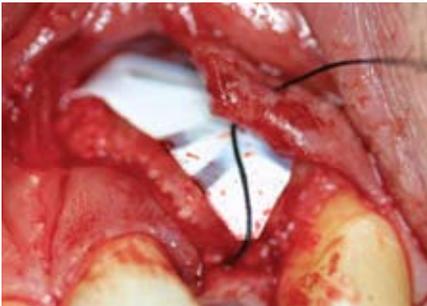


Fig 4a



Fig 4b

A composite particulate graft, consisting of demineralized bone putty combined with beta-tricalcium phosphate granules, was then placed and covered with a high-density titanium-reinforced PTFE membrane (Cytoplast® Ti-250 Posterior Large) and primary closure was achieved using a 3-0 PTFE suture (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture; CS0518) (Fig 4a and 4b).



Fig 5a

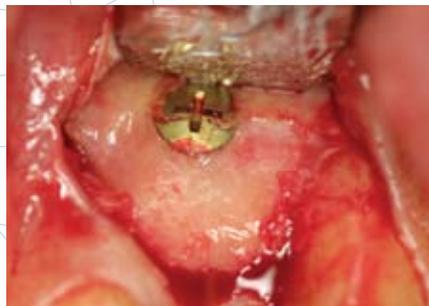


Fig 5b

After 6 months of healing, the augmented site was exposed (Fig 5a) and the membrane was removed (Fig 5b), revealing dense cortical bone under the membrane.

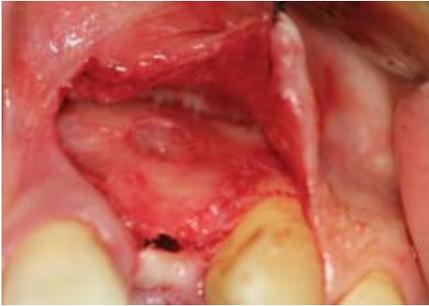


Fig 5c



Fig 5d

Upon removal of the tenting screw (Fig 5c), it is apparent total reconstruction of the ridge contour, up to the height predetermined by the tenting screw and membrane, was achieved.

A CT scan taken prior to the removal of the tenting screw and membrane reveals a substantial increase in width, from 2.9 mm to 8.5 mm, greatly facilitating implant placement in the proper three-dimensional position. (Fig 6a - 6c).



Fig 6a

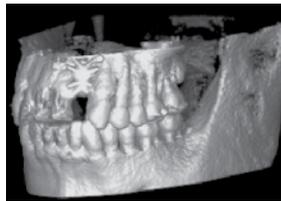


Fig 6b

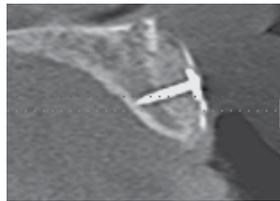
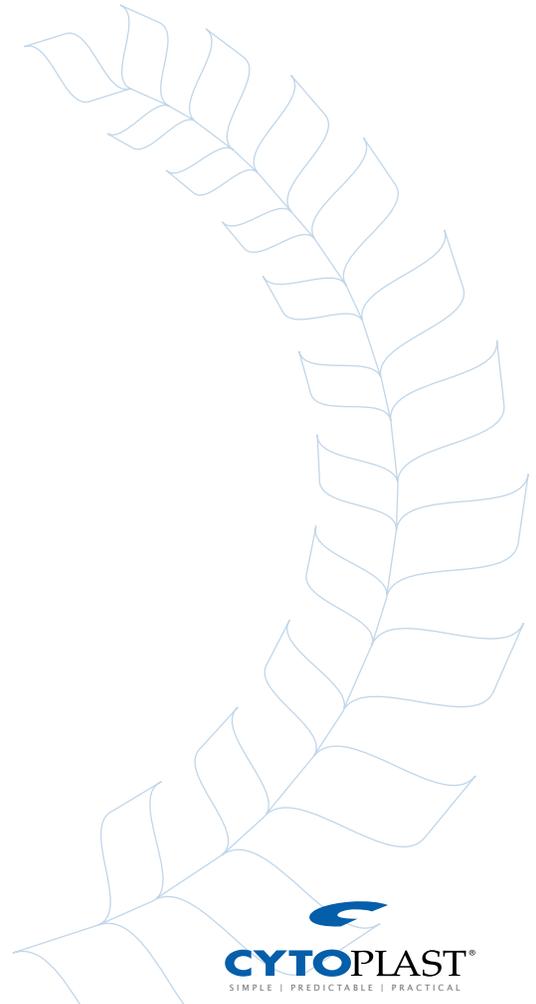


Fig 6c

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IMPLANT SITE DEVELOPMENT USING A BOVINE COLLAGEN MEMBRANE AND ALLOGENEIC BONE

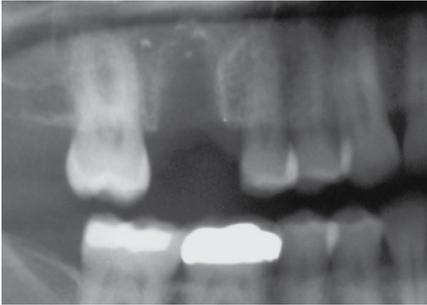


Fig 1a



Fig 1b



Fig 2a



Fig 2b



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6

A 48 year-old female presented for implant replacement of the maxillary right first molar, which had been extracted 6 months previously. There was a substantial hard tissue defect requiring augmentation prior to implant placement (Fig 1a and Fig 1b). The original plan was to augment the site in two stages. First, a particulate graft would be used to expand the soft tissue envelope, and then an autogenous block graft would be placed.

The initial surgical exposure of the healing socket revealed soft tissue extending up to and including the antral floor (Fig 2a). After removal of the soft tissue, the antral membrane was found to be intact, as well as the palatal wall and the mesial and distal bony walls. The buccal plate and floor of the socket were missing (Fig 2b).

Allogeneic bone putty (Regenaform® Moldable Allograft Paste, Exactech Dental Biologics) was mixed according to the manufacturer's directions, placed into the defect, and shaped to restore the contour of the ridge (Fig 3).

A bovine collagen guided tissue regeneration membrane (Cytoplast® RTM Collagen) was trimmed to fit over the graft (Fig 4 and Fig 5). Primary closure was achieved over the membrane and graft using 3-0 PTFE sutures (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture; CS0518) (Fig 6).



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10

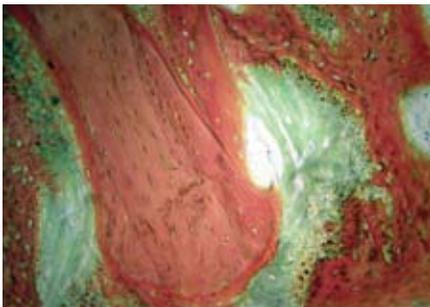


Fig 11



Fig 12



Fig 13



Fig 14

After 6 months of healing, there was excellent healing with minimal loss of graft volume (Fig 7). Surgical exposure (Fig 8) revealed good bone density, and a 4.7 x 11.5 mm tapered endosseous implant was placed (Fig 9).

A bone core, harvested with a trephine drill from the implant site (Fig 10) and examined microscopically, revealed 42% vital bone (Fig 11), with active remodeling and active new bone formation evident in association with both the demineralized and mineralized components of the graft (Histology by Michael D. Rohrer, DDS, MS. University of Minnesota Hard Tissue Research Laboratory).

Four months after placement, the abutment was placed and the implant was successfully restored (Fig 12 and Fig 13). After 16 weeks in function in a provisional restoration, the periapical radiograph demonstrates good bone density in the grafted area (Fig 14).

SUMMARY

This case demonstrates the successful reconstruction of a large, 3-walled defect in the maxilla, including loss of the antral floor. The use of a cross-linked, type 1 bovine collagen membrane in conjunction with mineralized and demineralized allograft putty resulted in regeneration of vital bone of sufficient volume and density to accommodate a wide diameter implant. This was accomplished in a single surgical procedure, eliminating the need for autogenous block grafting. Histological analysis revealed vital bone with remodeling of the allograft particles and continued bone formation at 6 months.

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Regenaform® is processed by Regeneration Technologies and distributed by Exactech Dental Biologics.

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GUIDED BONE REGENERATION
USING A BOVINE COLLAGEN
MEMBRANE, PLATELET-RICH PLASMA
AND ALLOGENEIC BONE PUTTY



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3a



Fig 3b



Fig 4a



Fig 4b

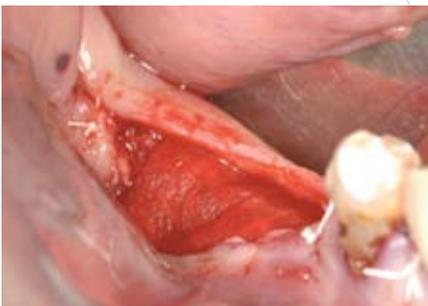


Fig 5a



Fig 5b

A 43 year-old female presented for replacement of the mandibular right first molar and second premolar. The teeth had been extracted 20 years previously. There was a combined hard and soft tissue defect requiring augmentation prior to implant placement (Fig 1).

A mid-crestal incision was used to expose the atrophic edentulous ridge. A surgical burr was used to decorticate the bone in preparation for grafting (Fig 2).

Allogeneic bone putty (Regenaform® Moldable Allograft Paste, Exactech Dental Biologics) was hydrated with PRP and then mixed with autogenous cortical bone harvested with a bone scraper (Fig 3a and Fig 3b).

A cross-linked type 1 bovine collagen membrane (Cytoplast® RTM Collagen) was placed over the graft (Fig 4a and Fig 4b). Primary closure was achieved with 3-0 PTFE sutures (Cytoplast® PTFE Suture; CS0518) (Fig 5a and Fig 5b).



Fig 6



Fig 7

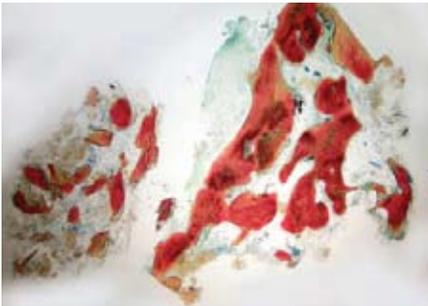


Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10

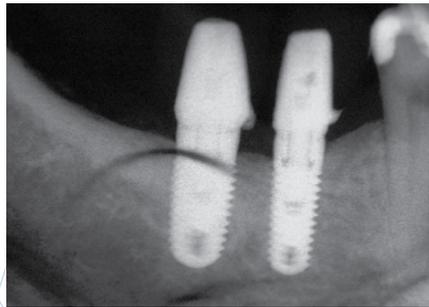


Fig 11

Six months after ridge augmentation (Fig 6), endosseous implants were placed. The augmented bone was of adequate volume and density for uncomplicated implant placement (Fig 7).

A bone core, harvested with a trephine drill from the implant site and examined microscopically (Fig 8), revealed 43% bone by volume with 97% vital bone and 3% residual graft material (Histology by Michael D. Rohrer, DDS, MS. University of Minnesota Hard Tissue Research Laboratory).

Clinically, an increase in the width of keratinized gingiva was seen (Fig 9). Four months after implant placement, the restorative components were placed and the implants were restored with acrylic restorations and progressively loaded (Fig 10 and Fig 11).

SUMMARY

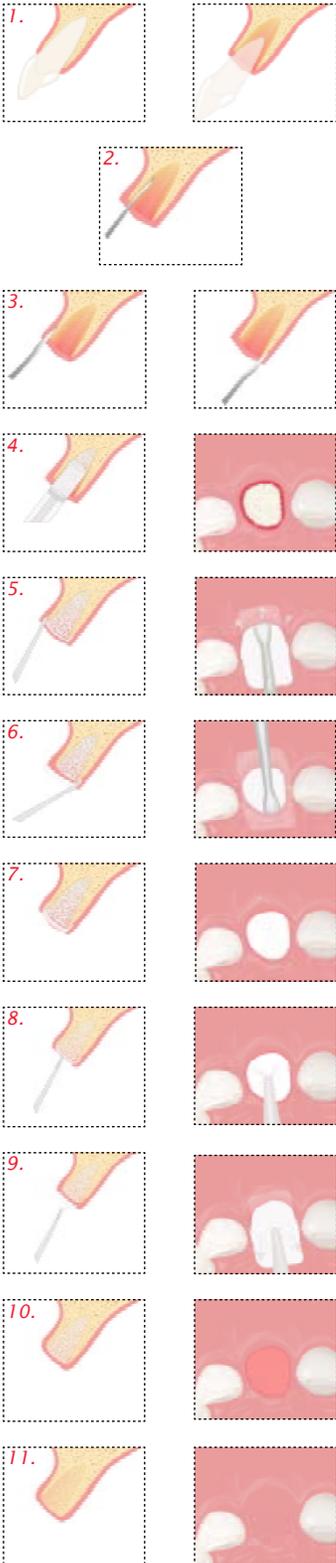
This case demonstrates the successful augmentation of an atrophic, edentulous posterior mandible using guided bone regeneration. The use of a cross-linked type 1 bovine collagen membrane in conjunction with mineralized and demineralized allograft putty resulted in regeneration of vital bone of sufficient volume and density to accommodate a wide diameter implant. This was accomplished in a single surgical procedure using an autogenous graft component harvested locally without the use of a second surgical site. Histological analysis revealed vital bone with remodeling of the allograft particles and continued bone formation at six months.

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THE CYTOPLAST® TECHNIQUE: EXTRACTION SITE GRAFTING WITHOUT PRIMARY CLOSURE



1. Preoperative view. To maximize the result of ridge preservation procedures, techniques designed to minimize trauma to the alveolar bone, such as the use of periostomes and surgical sectioning of ankylosed roots should be considered.

2. All soft tissue remnants should be removed with sharp curettage. Special care should be taken to remove all soft tissue at the apical extent of the socket of endodontically treated teeth. Bleeding points should be noted on the cortical plate. If necessary, decortication of the socket wall should be done with a #2 round burr to improve blood supply.

3. A subperiosteal pocket is created with a micro periosteal elevator or small curette, extending 3-5 mm beyond the socket margins on the palatal and the facial aspect of the socket. In the esthetic zone, rather than incising and elevating the interdental papilla, it is left intact and undermined in a similar fashion. The Cytoplast® high-density PTFE membrane will be tucked into this subperiosteal pocket.

4. Particulate graft material can be placed into the socket with a syringe or with a curette. Ensure that the material is evenly distributed throughout the socket. However, the particles should not be densely packed to preserve ample space for blood vessel ingrowth.

5. The Cytoplast® high-density PTFE membrane is trimmed to extend 3-5 mm beyond the socket walls and then tucked subperiosteally under the palatal flap, the facial flap and underneath the interdental papilla with a curette. The membrane should rest on bone 360° around the socket margins, if possible. Note that minimal flap reflection is necessary to stabilize the membrane.

6. Ensure that there are no folds or wrinkles in the membrane and that it lies passively over the socket. To prevent bacterial leakage under the membrane, take care to avoid puncturing the membrane, and do not overlap two adjacent pieces of membrane material.

7. The membrane is further stabilized with a criss-cross Cytoplast® PTFE suture. Alternatively, interrupted sutures may be placed. The PTFE sutures, which cause minimal inflammatory response, are left in place for 10 to 14 days.

8. The membrane is removed, non-surgically, in 21 to 28 days. Sockets with missing walls may benefit from the longer time frame. Topical anesthetic is applied, then the membrane is grasped with a tissue forcep and removed with a gentle tug.

9. Studies have shown that by 21-28 days there is a dense, vascular connective tissue matrix in the socket and early osteogenesis is observed in the apical 2/3 of the socket.

10. Immediately following membrane removal, a dense, highly vascular, osteoid matrix is observed. The natural position of the gingival margin has been left intact because primary closure was not necessary. The dense PTFE membrane has contained the graft material and prevented epithelial migration into the socket.

11. The socket at 6 weeks. Keratinized gingiva is beginning to form over the grafted socket. The natural soft tissue architecture is preserved, including the interdental papillae. New bone is beginning to form in the socket. Over the next 6 to 10 weeks, increasing thickness of trabeculae and mineralization will result in load bearing bone suitable for implant placement.

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