10. Maxillary anterior implant: an arduous or prudent task: a series of case reports

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In the anterior maxilla esthetics is more critical due to visibility of the region and if a high lip line is present, the smile line is more revealing thus increasing the need for an esthetic result, with some authors ranking function and aesthetics in the anterior maxillary region to be of equal importance.
Evaluation of position in a labial palatal direction is also important because placement too far labially may result in overcontouring of the crown, which cannot be corrected prosthetically. Labial malpositioning can lead to recession and palatal placement also leads to a modified ridge lap, thus increasing difficulty for maintenance. An ideal emergence profile is achieved when there is proper placement of the implant in a correct 3-dimensional position. The third and final dimension of concern is apicocoronal malpositioning. If too apical there is an expected bone resorption and gingival recession, while a coronal placement may be unesthetic due to visibility of implant shoulder. It is well documented that in order to have ideal esthetics with implant prosthesis adequate bone must be present to allow for proper placement of the implant. If deficiencies are noticed during presurgical planning then appropriate corrective procedures must be undertaken. Guided bone regeneration, socket-shield technique have been tried to prevent bone resorption following extractions. This paper aims at presenting different approaches for maxillary anterior implants with demonstrations of different cases and review on the success of the techniques.

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