

Connective Contour™ – increased soft tissue contact zone and volume

One of the key features of the Astra Tech BioManagement Complex™ is the Connective Contour™. This unique contour increases the soft tissue contact zone and volume and is created when the abutment is connected to the implant. This design has been part of the Astra Tech Implant System™ since 1985, and thus, all available clinical documentation on Astra Tech implants includes results on this key feature. Since the soft tissue at implant-supported restorations is dependent on the peri-implant bone topography, the preservation of the peri-implant bone height is crucial for a successful soft tissue outcome. This review will focus on the literature evaluating the peri-implant soft tissue.

The peri-implant soft tissue is in direct contact with the Connective Contour¹⁻³ and a high mechanical stability of the soft tissue is achieved, resulting in the ability to withstand external forces and movements. The increased soft tissue volume leads to reduced translucency of the formed buccal tissue and thereby improved esthetics. Another advantage of the Connective Contour feature is the ability of the formed peri-implant soft tissue to seal off and protect the marginal bone².

The suggested width of the peri-implant soft tissue (i.e. the biological width) is about 3 mm, including the junctional epithelium requiring up to 2 mm^{1, 4-9}. The design of the Connective Contour enables a healthy biological width to be established, a prerequisite for stable marginal bone. Several clinical studies with the Astra Tech Implant System reports on good esthetics and patient satisfaction¹⁰⁻²³. By a careful selection of abutments excellent esthetics can be achieved and maintained, including a stable, or even a gain, in soft tissue dimensions and papilla height^{10-20, 22, 24-29}.

For literature about the maintained marginal bone levels with Astra Tech Implant System, please see Scientific Review on Marginal bone maintenance.

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