Documentation on early and immediate loading
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Early and immediate loading

The early loading protocol refers to the placement of a provisional or permanent restoration prior to the time of conventional loading but after the time considered immediate loading [1, 2].

A number of clinical studies with a follow-up range between 1 and 5 years reporting on Astra Tech implants, shows good clinical results with survival rates close to 100% in early loading situations of single implants [3–8], and partial or full arch restorations [9–12] whether placed in maxilla or mandible and located in anterior or posterior locations [4, 11, 13–15]. Published data from 1-year studies shows predictable results for implants placed in extraction sockets and early loaded [8, 16]. High patient satisfaction has been reported when using an early loading protocol [11, 17]. Moreover, results from prospective studies evaluating early loading of OsseoSpeed™ implants show maintained marginal bone levels with a mean marginal bone loss below 0.3 mm after five years of loading [13, 18].

Immediate loading refers to situations where implant placement and loading take place at the same visit or within 48 hours [1, 2]. Immediate loading offers many potential advantages, such as reduced number of surgical procedures and an esthetic solution within 48 hours.

Several clinical studies with the Astra Tech Implant System™ show safe and predictable results when using a one-stage surgical protocol followed by immediate loading [19–33]. The studies cover implants placed in different regions and indications: mandible and maxilla [19, 22, 23, 33, 34], atrophic maxilla [21, 35], single-tooth restorations [19, 25, 31], total fixed prostheses [20, 22, 23, 26, 27], and immediate installation in extraction sockets [28, 36–38]. Results from prospective 1, 2 and 5 year studies evaluating OsseoSpeed implants show maintained marginal bone levels with a mean marginal bone loss below 0.3 mm, when applying immediate functional loading using different surgical techniques [18, 25, 39, 40].

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