Immediate Implant Placement and Temporization in the Esthetic Zone: Indications and Limitations

The immediate placement of dental implants is a predictable, reliable procedure. Our latest systematic review demonstrated this can even be performed in sites with periapical infection (Waasdorp, JA. Immediate Placement of Implants into Infected Sites: A Systematic Review. J Periodontol. 2010 Jun;81(6):801-8). Often times, this can also be performed in conjunction with immediate temporization. This is of great benefit to patients and referring dentists, especially in the esthetic region.

Benefits:
1. Eliminates the need for removable prosthesis during the healing period
2. The provisional restoration maintains soft tissue contours, setting the stage for a final restoration from day 1 (this means less chair time for the restorative dentist)
3. Less surgical visits and improved treatment time for patients

Indications:
1. Medically and periodontally healthy patient with adequate bone for implant placement
2. Adequate primary implant stability and insertion torque
3. Ability to keep restoration out of occlusion, especially excursive movements. This can be very difficult in cases of deep bite.
4. Patient has fixed posterior support

Example Case: 51 y/o healthy female, desired fixed temporary

Left: Day of surgery; notice temporary is out of occlusion
Center: 2 month post operative visit
Right: Final impression at 3 months; soft tissue contours maintained

Left: Preoperative radiograph; #5 vertical root fracture
Center: Day of placement with temporary abutment
Right: Impression coping at 3 months

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