



## Case Report

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### Long-Term Efficacy of Occlusal Loading on an Implant with Low Stability: A Case Report

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#### Abstract

Primary stability plays an important role in successful osseointegration. Primary stability is defined as the contact of implant and bone during the surgical implant placement. This contact is crucial for direct bone deposition between the bone/implant interface as well as subsequent mineralization process of osseogenesis. Secondary stability, however, is not purely a mechanical stability of the implant, unlike the primary stability; it is a biological stability which is formed within few weeks after implant placement during bone remodeling. This case report demonstrates that the secondary stability can be controlled by progressive loading and it dictates the percentage of functionally and biologically integrated bone-implant contact which in turn dictates its loading schedule.

**Materials and methods:** 5.8×9 mm Biohorizon implant was placed in the upper right 1st molar area. The patient was unable to attend the following visit for uncover and restoration for a period of 3 years, however, upon uncover the ISQ readings were 20. A provisional crown on the implant was made using a light cured zirconium silicate micro ceramic indirect restoration called Ceramage which was kept 3 mm out of occlusion. The occlusion was adjusted periodically till the ISQ value reached above 65 indicating its safety for loading. Results: the ISQ value increased from 20 to 77 over a period of 6 months with periodic occlusal adjustments resulting from progressive loading.

**Discussion:** Rather than diagnosing the implant in the category of failed implant it was decided to load the implant progressively below occlusion and improve its stability.

**Conclusion:** Placing the implant with low ISQ value on controlled progressive loading protocol in 6 months can improve the stability and ISQ value of the implant.

#### Keywords

Primary stability; Bone density; Insertion torque; Resonance frequency analysis; Biomechanical assessment

#### Aim and Objective of the Article

To demonstrate the effect of sequential implant loading with low ISQ value (unable to load) on its increasing stability over time.

#### Introduction

Implant stability plays a critical role in successful Osseointegration, which is viewed as a direct structural and functional connection

between bone surface and surface of the load carrying implant [1-7]. Primary stability of an implant consists of a mechanical attachment between the implant and the cortical bone<sup>3</sup>. Primary stability is directly related to the quantity and quality of the supporting bone, during the inflammatory early phases of the proliferation stage during osseogenesis [8]. Secondary stability is achieved by the growth and remodeling of bone around the implant which is indirectly related to the primary stability while the process of bone formation and remodeling is taking place [9].

Factors influencing primary implant stability are predominantly related to the bone quality, implant design, patient anatomical structures and the surgical technique [1].

However, factors which influence the secondary implant stability are related to the enhancement of the stability as a result of peri-implant bone formation through gradual bone remodeling and osseogenesis, with the possibility of new bone formation at the implant-bone interface [9].

There are three non-invasive methods to measure the implant stability at the time of uncover; percussion test, damping capacity assessment (Periotest- damping capacity assessment) and resonance frequency analysis (RFA) is a method used to determine stability (the level of osseointegration) in dental implants (Osstell, Stampgatan 14 SE 411 01 Gothenburg, Sweden). The stability is presented as an implant stability quotient (ISQ) value. Studies by zix et al. [10] have demonstrated that periotest is more susceptible to clinical measurement variables when compared to Osstell readings, upon comparison with provided reproducible results Lachman et al. concluded that Osstell was shown to be a more precise technique for measuring implant stability [11].

#### Case Report

A 48 year old male patient came for a dental consultation on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009. After a thorough clinical and radiographic (Figure 1) examination of tooth #16, a periodontal abscess and distal pocket with the depth of 13 mm was found. Full mouth subgingival scaling and curettage was performed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 along with antibiotic therapy. Extraction of tooth #16 was performed on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2009. An Implant with the dimensions of 5.8x9 mm Biohorizon (2300 Riverchase Center Birmingham, AL 35244 USA) was placed on tooth #16 a week post extraction on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 (Figures 2 and 3). Plans were made for implant uncover after 6 months due to type IV bone quality, but the patient was unable to attend for the uncover appointment.

After approximately 3 years on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 the patient reported for the Uncover visit (Figure 4), the implant stability was assessed by means of osstell device. The ISQ readings for buccal, occlusal, palatal area were 14, 20 and 17 respectively (Figure 5).

A screw retained provisional restoration (using a light cured zirconium silicate micro ceramic indirect restoration called Ceramage- SHOFU Dental GmbH, Am Brüll 17, and 40878 Ratingen, Germany) was fabricated approximately 3 mm out of the occlusion and the patient was asked to chew on it with caution (Figure 6).

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Figure 1: Diagnostic panoramic radiograph.



Figure 2: Panoramic radiograph after implant placement.



Figure 3: Implant placement.

After 3 months, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012, the patient returned and the stability of the implants was re-examined using the Osstell device. The provisional restoration proved to be more success due to the increased ISQ readings 19,44 and 44 for buccal, Occlusal and palatal respectively (Figure 7). There was a noticeable improvement in

regards to the stability of the implant after the controlled loading of the implant by using a provisional composite crown. The occlusion was adjusted 1mm a month regularly and the ISQ measured. The height of the provisional composite crown was increased to 1mm out of occlusion. After 3 months, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 the patient returned to the clinic and the ISQ readings for buccal, occlusal and palatal were 77,77 and 77 respectively (Figure 8). Finally, a permanent full contoured Ceramage UCLA crown was fabricated for the patient as a long term restoration.

After 3 years on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, since the first ISQ value assessment of 14,20 and 17 and initial loading date which was on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 the patient came for a follow-up maintenance and checkup visit, whereby the ISQ reading for buccal, occlusal and palatal was 80,80 and 80 respectively (Figures 9-12).

### Discussion

This study presents that when the ISQ measurement of the implant during uncover was insufficient, by sequential occlusal loading, the implants stability and ISQ measurement increased over time [5].

The RFA measurements during uncover after 3 years from placement showed an RF of 2.00 kHz (ISQ 14) as a mean value, indicating that such a low primary stability even after 6 months of healing period will not improve if more time is allotted for

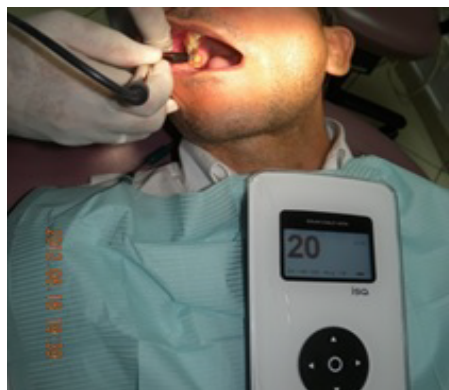


Figure 4: Open-tray impression technique.



Figure 5: Osstell reading at uncover stage.

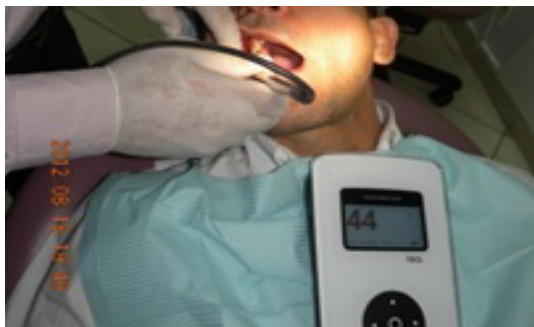


Figure 6: UCLA Provisional crown 3mm out of occlusion.



Figure 10: After 3 years, maintenance follow up/ occlusal view demonstrating pink and healthy gingival around the crown with bad oral hygiene and no maintenance recall in these years.



Figure 7: Osstell reading after 3 months of loading with the provisional restoration.



Figure 11: Insertion of the osstell device.



Figure 8: Osstell reading after 6 months of loading.

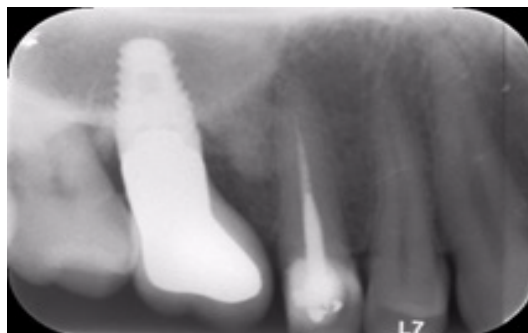


Figure 12: Osstell reading after 4 years of loading.



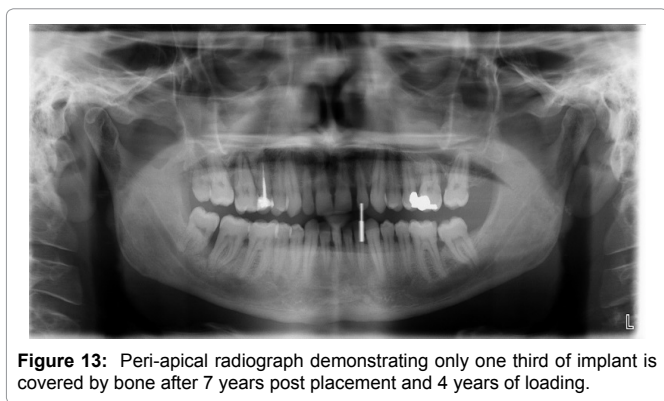
Figure 9: After 3 years, maintenance follow up/ buccal view.

osseointegration. For the majority of the implants that fall under 60 ISQ we generally wait a period of four weeks to achieve better osseointegration [9-10].

Romanosetal. [12] performed a histological and histomorphometrical evaluation peri implant bone in the posterior mandible. And he found that peri implant mineralized bone areas presented statistically significant higher density of bone between the threads of loaded implants [13-20].

Loading of the implants seemed to increase the ossification of the alveolar bone around endosseous implants [17].

Even though, in the periapical radiograph the bone quality level do not seem to be sufficient enough for implant loading, however, the ISQ value of 80 demonstrates sufficient bone contact for loading (Figure 13).



**Figure 13:** Peri-apical radiograph demonstrating only one third of implant is covered by bone after 7 years post placement and 4 years of loading.

## Conclusion

Placing the implant with low ISQ value on controlled progressive loading protocol over a period of 6 months can improve the stability and ISQ value of the implant.

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