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Two Implant Case Studies

by Dr. Raymond J. Voller

The replacement of a single central incisor is most likely the most demanding esthetic challenge in all of dentistry. The following case illustrates the use of progressively shaded pontics utilizing a bleaching tray. A flipper was also used for provisionalization, while concurrently maintaining interproximal papillary tissue in preparation for a single tooth implant to replace one of two fractured incisors.

Treatment Case 1

The patient pre-sented initially for an emergency appointment to evaluate a "loose front tooth" that caused on and off discomfort. He reportedly was struck in the mouth with a hockey puck several years earlier. However, he did not seek treatment on that occasion, and from time to time, the tooth would loosen and then tighten up. His previous dentist had done some "nerve work" in the tooth, but he was becoming increasingly unhappy with the worsening tooth discoloration.

During our exam, we also noticed that the adjacent incisor, tooth #9, also was fractured, however the patient elected not to have treatment on this tooth at this time.

Due to the mid-root fracture and mobility it was mutually agreed to extract tooth #8 and place an immediate bone graft (Dyna-graft/Isotis/Orthobiologics, Irvine, CA) in the extraction socket, in preparation for a future implant. Due to the amount of bone loss found at the time of extraction, an immediate implant was postponed until full healing took place.

We had also planned to utilize a bleaching tray with progressively shaded pontics in the edentulous space, along with a single tooth flipper during the times the patient did not have the bleaching tray in place. After a period of a few weeks, the patient's teeth whitened considerably, and we replaced the flipper with a properly shaded pontic.



Fig. 1: Periapical pre-operatively of tooth #8.



Fig. 2: Pre-op frontal view illustrating discolored, mobile tooth #8.

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