

Contemporary Esthetics

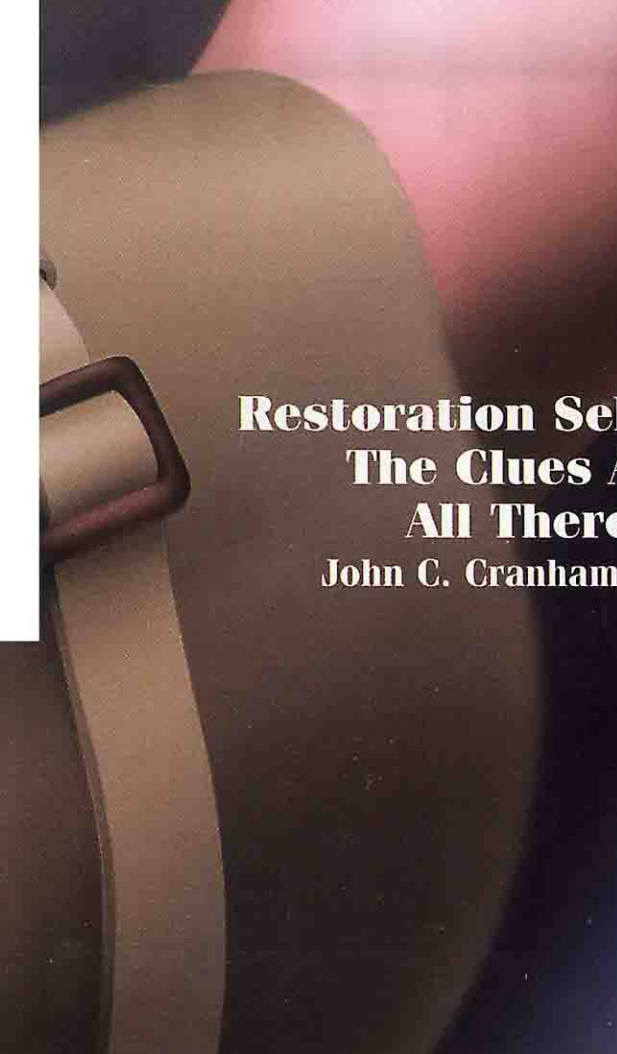
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AND
RESTORATIVE
PRACTICE®

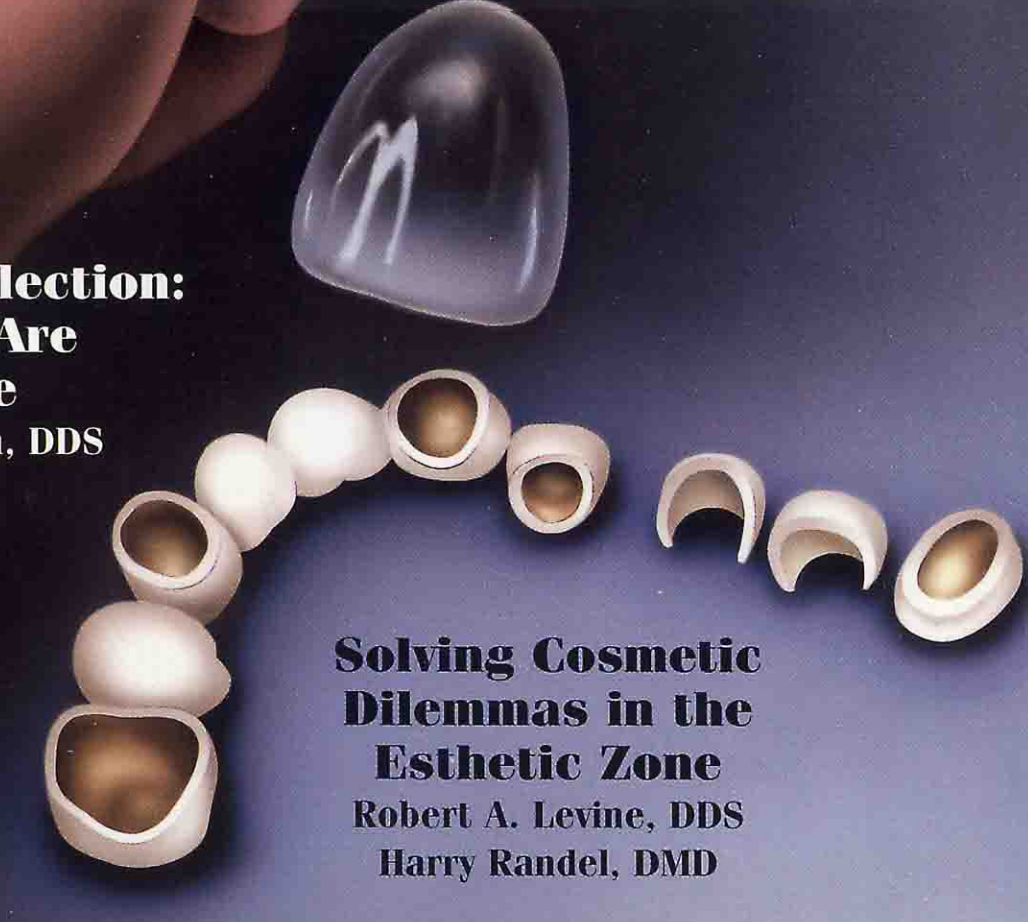
**DENTAL
DETECTIVES**



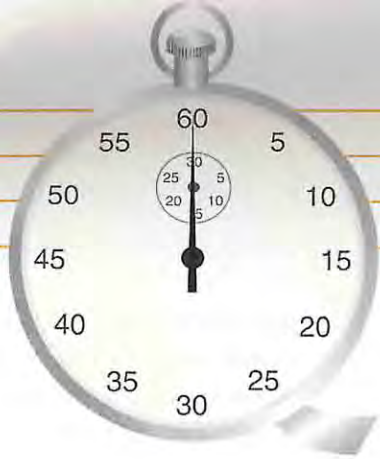
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**Solving Cosmetic
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Robert A. Levine, DDS
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Quick Tips

Transitional Implants as Temporary Fixed Restorations in a Sinus Graft



Mohamed A. Maksoud, DMD
Private Practice
Jacksonville, Florida
Phone: 904.731.4347
Fax: 904.731.43 10
Email: mmaksoud@aol.com

Dental implants have been a widely accepted dental modality. With the evolution of different implant systems, a great demand for treatment plans that include dental implants has risen. However, fully integrated dental implants require an osseointegration period before the prosthetic phase, ranging from several months to a full year—especially if bone augmentation was implemented at the time of implant insertion. This waiting period can be detrimental to the patient, as it will not serve the need for function, comfort, or esthetics. This article will explore using a previously approved modular transitional implant modality for a patient who received sinus augmentation at the time of implant insertion.

Patients who receive conventional implants are required to wear a transitional prosthesis, which could become a major discomfort. A treatment alternative was introduced in 1995 that included placement of miniature implants to support a fixed or removable temporary



Figure 1—Preoperative panoramic radiograph of the case.



Figure 2—Panoramic radiograph of the transitional and endosseous implants in place.



Figure 3—Panoramic radiograph of the transitional implants with the temporary crowns.



Figure 4—Close-up radiographic view of the transitional implants partially embedded in the bone graft material.

prosthesis.¹ Since the inception of this technique, several cases have been documented that use transitional titanium implants to support full and partial temporary dentures.²⁻⁶ The following clinical case report should help to illustrate how miniature transitional implants can be placed to support a temporary prosthe-

sis in a sinus grafting area, to serve the patient's functional and esthetic needs during the healing process.

CASE REPORT

A 65-year-old woman presented for an implant consultation. After review of her med-



Figure 5—Clinical view of the protective caps on top of the transitional implants.



Figure 6—Clinical view of the temporary crowns supported by the transitional implants.



Figure 7—Radiographic view of the completed case 9 months after implant insertion and sinus graft augmentation.

Quick Tips *continued*

xylocaine with 1:100,000 of epinephrine. Using the supplied retrieval tool, the implants were removed with no complications, and the resultant wound was left to close by secondary intention.

CONCLUSION

Titanium transitional implants have shown good bone and soft-tissue response throughout the osseointegration period. In addition, they do not affect the healing

of the sinus augmentation material. This modality of transitional implants has several advantages,⁸⁻¹¹ primarily the immediate replacement of missing teeth. Other advantages are phonetics, distrib-

ution of occlusal forces, comfort, and stability. However, it requires immaculate oral hygiene around the transitional implants to avoid complications, and any complications of treatment with transitional implants might lead to damage of the root-form implant.

In the case presented here, histological examination via core biopsy was not recommended because of the close proximity of the transitional implants to the endosseous implants, which increased the risk of possible damage to the implant surface during the taking of the biopsy. The radiographic and clinical results suggest the possible benefits of wider use of the transitional implants modality with a bone graft mass. ■

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