

Case study: improving aesthetics around an existing implant

In this case study we restore an implant that had been placed by another dentist, who had not adequately considered the bone and gum morphology

Dental implants have been with us for many years now, and more dentists are getting involved in placing and restoring implants.

We have been carrying out implant surgery and complex restorative work on implants for more than 25 years, and are seeing an increase in the number of complications arising because of implants placed by less experienced dentists.

Frequently, we are encountering problems caused by inadequate planning, both in relation to implant positioning and in the management of bone and gum. This is especially crucial in the aesthetic zone.

These problems can be challenging to put right, and the hardest cases to restore with a good cosmetic result are often the single central incisor tooth, especially when the patient has a high lip line.

This patient had an implant placed 12 years ago, but due to greying of the gum was never happy with the result. She recently had her crown replaced by another dentist, but unfortunately this did not solve the problem. Furthermore, it caused further gum recession, which showed when she smiled. All of these problems could have been avoided in the original planning, by paying more attention to the bone and gum morphology. The implant was originally placed without any bone grafting or ensuring that there was enough attached gingivae.

Our solution to her problem was to remove the old implant post and crown, construct a temporary ceramic post and crown and carry out gum grafting. A sub-epithelial connective tissue graft was taken from the palate and the graft placed at the time of fitting the temporary work. This area was then left to heal for four months before constructing the definitive implant post and crown.



Initial referral consultation



Mid-treatment, gum graft in place



Gum graft completed, temporary crown in-place



Three-months into healing, temporary crown still in place

Tim Thackrah



Tim qualified with honours from the Royal Dental Hospital, London in 1982. His main interests are dental implants and cosmetic dentistry, which he has been offering as treatments for more than twenty-five years.

Tim has undertaken numerous courses in restorative dentistry, bone regeneration and implant dentistry in England, the USA and Sweden. He also lectures and run courses in dental implant and cosmetic dentistry.

If you would like to discuss a case with Tim before referring, he can be contacted on **01252 713797** or email tim@elmsleighhouse.com