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Richa Wadhawan
Professor, Department of Oral Medicine, Diagnosis & Radiology, PDM Dental College & Research Institute, Bahadurgarh, Haryana, India

Deepak Kumar Gupta
Dental Surgeon, Pb Dental, Durgapur, West Bengal, India

Anubhav Jain
General Dentist, Castleton Corners Dental, Vermont, United States of America

Abul Hassan Md Shekhawath Ullah
Dental Surgeon, Tooth & Root Care, Morigaon, Assam, India

Harshika Sengar
Dental Surgeon, Institute of Dental Education & Advance Studies, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India

Grace A Valiyaveettil
Dental Surgeon, Institute of dental education & advance studies, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Corresponding Author:
Richa Wadhawan
Professor, Oral Medicine, Diagnosis & Radiology, PDM Dental College & Research Institute, Bahadurgarh, Haryana, India

Envisioning perpetual developments and sustained efficacy of implant maintenance

Richa Wadhawan, Deepak Kumar Gupta, Anubhav Jain, Abul Hassan Md Shekhawath Ullah, Harshika Sengar and Grace A Valiyaveettil

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Abstract
The long-term success of dental implants depends on effective preservation strategies, making it crucial to understand the diverse methods of implant maintenance. This review emphasizes the vital connection between professional care and patient involvement in maintaining implant health. Innovations in monitoring techniques and preservation technologies are reshaping our approach to implant upkeep, improving the efficiency of protocols aimed at ensuring longevity. Key elements such as consistent oral hygiene, regular follow-up visits, and the use of advanced materials significantly impact implant durability. Additionally, these advancements not only enhance clinical outcomes but also empower patients, encouraging them to actively participate in their oral health journey. A collaborative effort between dental professionals and patients is essential for maximizing implant longevity and effectiveness. By nurturing this partnership, it can be ensured that dental implants not only fulfill their intended function but also flourish over time, ultimately improving patients' quality of life.

Keywords: Implant preservation, long-term success, maintenance protocols, oral hygiene, patient engagement, clinical outcomes

Introduction
An implant prosthesis is a dental restoration designed to replace missing teeth by anchoring to dental implants, which are surgically inserted into the jawbone. This innovative approach provides a stable foundation for fixed or removable prosthetic teeth, significantly enhancing both functionality and aesthetics [1]. Dental implants consist of a biocompatible titanium post that integrates with the bone through a process called osseointegration, ensuring a durable and long-lasting solution (Figure 1) [2].

Fig 1: Implant prosthesis
Courtesy: https://www.myradental.co.uk/10-benefits-of-dental-implants/

The development of implant prostheses has transformed dental practice, offering patients improved quality of life, enhanced chewing efficiency, and a natural appearance [3]. The versatility of implant-supported restorations allows for the replacement of single teeth,

multiple teeth, or even full arches, making them suitable for a wide range of clinical situations [4]. Success in implant prosthetics relies on careful planning, a multidisciplinary approach, and a comprehensive understanding of the patient's oral and overall health [5]. Key factors influencing the success of implant prostheses include the quality of the bone, the design of the prosthesis, the materials used, and the meticulousness of maintenance protocols (Figure 2) [6].

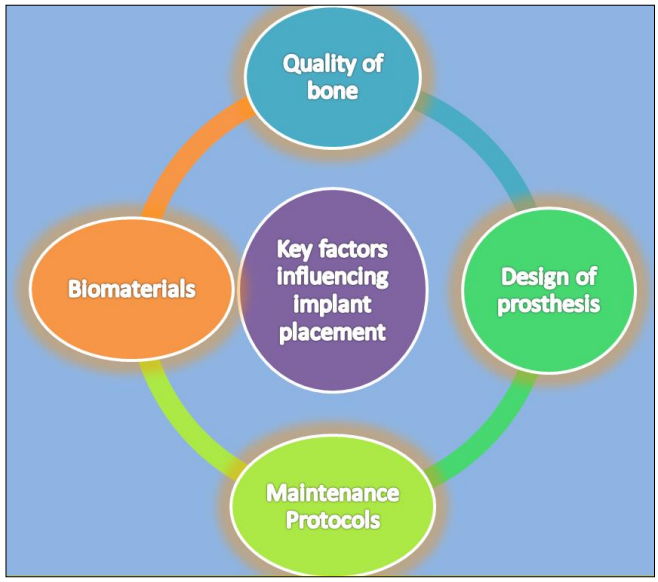

Fig 2: Key protocols for placement of implant prosthesis

Ongoing advancements in technology, materials, and techniques continue to enhance the effectiveness and reliability of implant prosthetics, establishing them as a cornerstone of modern restorative dentistry [7]. The future of implant maintenance is poised for remarkable progress, promising increased durability and effectiveness. As dentistry evolves, emerging technologies like digital monitoring and artificial intelligence (Figure 3) will transform implant management [8].

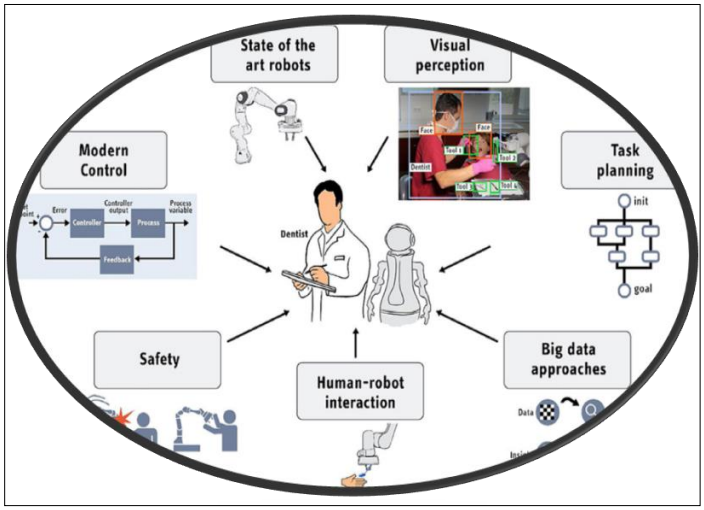

Fig 3: Artificial intelligence in implantology
Courtesy: Lou F, Hong G, Wan Q. Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Applications of Zirconia. Front Dent Med. 2021; 19; 2:689288.

These advancements will refine maintenance protocols, enabling early identification of potential issues and personalized care strategies. Additionally, educating dental professionals and patients will be crucial for fostering proactive implant health practices [9]. Promoting collaboration among specialists and leveraging cutting-edge techniques will make sustained efficacy in implant maintenance increasingly attainable [10]. The placement of dental implants requires a coordinated effort from a multidisciplinary team, including oral surgeons, prosthodontists, periodontists, and oral radiologists [11]. This team collaborates on the planning, placement, and ongoing care of implants to ensure optimal outcomes. Once implants are positioned in edentulous areas, continuous care, follow-up evaluations, and radiographs are essential for ensuring the longevity of these restorations [12]. Dental implant specialists must be knowledgeable about maintenance protocols, as failures can lead to disputes and tarnish the profession's reputation [13]. Regular maintenance procedures are crucial for helping patients maintain the health of their implants. With the growing number of patients choosing dental implants, it is vital for the dental team to address the complexities associated with these restorations [14]. The focus on long-term implant success now includes factors such as placement site, prosthesis design, aesthetics,

and the health of surrounding tissues. Preventing peri-implant disease is a significant concern for both clinicians and patients, emphasizing the need for routine checkups [15]. The ongoing success of implants largely depends on effective home care and preventive strategies implemented by the dental team. Patients are regarded as co-therapists in the maintenance process, highlighting their critical role in the enduring success of dental implants [16].

Objectives of Maintenance Therapy: The primary objectives of maintenance therapy include minimizing the risk of implant loss through regular monitoring, preventing the recurrence of previously treated peri-implantitis, and facilitating early detection and management of peri-implant issues (Figure 4) [17]

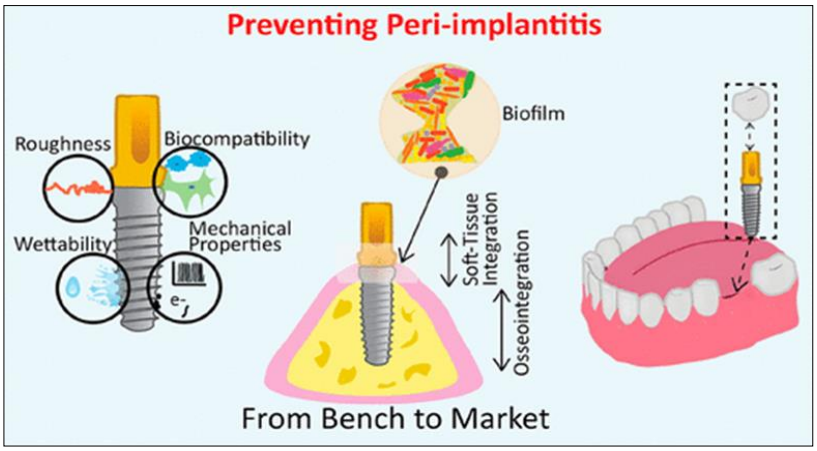

Fig 4: Prevention of peri-implantitis
Courtesy: Hasan J, Bright R, Hayles A, Palms D, Zilm P, Barker D, Vasilev K. Preventing peri-implantitis: the quest for a next generation of titanium dental implants. ACS Biomater Sci Eng. 2022; 8(11):4697-4737.

Comprehensive evaluation, monitoring, and maintenance are essential for ensuring the longevity of dental implants and their restorations, combining regular checkups, professional care, and effective home care [18]. This review emphasizes the need for ongoing advancements in techniques and materials vital for effective implant maintenance. It highlights the integration of digital tools and predictive analytics to enhance monitoring and early problem detection. Furthermore, it advocates for educating dental professionals and patients to foster proactive care. Collaboration among specialists is crucial for developing innovative maintenance strategies. By focusing on comprehensive evaluations and preventive practices, the dental community can enhance patient satisfaction and secure the long-term success and durability of dental implants [19].

Discussion

Imagining the future of implant maintenance involves continuous improvements in techniques and materials to ensure enduring effectiveness. As technology advances, the integration of digital tools and predictive analytics will enhance monitoring and maintenance protocols, allowing for early detection of issues [20]. Educational initiatives aimed at both professionals and patients will promote a deeper understanding of preventive care, emphasizing the importance of regular checkups and effective home care practices.

Additionally, collaboration among specialists will drive research into innovative maintenance solutions, ultimately leading to better long-term outcomes for dental implants. This proactive approach will increase patient satisfaction and the overall success of implant therapies [21]. Lang *et al*. in 1994 found that healthy peri-implant sites showed no bleeding, while instances of peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis exhibited significantly higher rates of bleeding on probing at 67% and 91%, respectively [22]. Luterbacher and colleagues later demonstrated that bleeding on probing provides greater diagnostic accuracy at implant sites compared to natural teeth [23]. The junctional epithelial attachment zone exhibits reduced attachment strength to the implant, consisting of a connective tissue zone made up of only two fiber groups, neither securely anchored to the implant [24]. This condition allows probing to extend beyond the peri-implant sulcus toward the bone, necessitating a gentler probing force of 0.2 to 0.3 N [25]. Well-integrated implants typically show probing depths around 3 mm, whereas depths of 5 mm or greater may promote bacterial growth and indicate peri-implantitis [26]. To reduce bacterial infiltration, it is advisable to dip the probe in chlorhexidine prior to use. Probing should be performed every 3 to 4 months during the first year after prosthesis placement, although it should be postponed for the first 3 months after abutment connection to prevent disrupting healing [27]. The width of peri-implant keratinized mucosa remains a debated topic; however, its presence offers more advantages than with natural teeth, enhancing stability at the implant-soft tissue interface [28]. Additionally, keratinized tissue helps submerged implants avoid exposure during healing. Analyzing peri-implant sulcus fluid reveals various biochemical markers that can indicate peri-implant disease activity, with studies showing a correlation between peri-implant sulcus fluid volume, plaque accumulation, and soft tissue inflammation [29]. Suppuration often accompanies peri-implantitis, indicating disease activity and the need for anti-infective treatment. Regular occlusal evaluations are vital for identifying and correcting discrepancies to prevent overload issues, such as loosening of abutment screws and implant failure [30]. Radiographically (Figure 5), a mean crestal bone loss of ≥1.5 mm during the first year post-loading and ≥0.2 mm/year thereafter is a critical success criterion. Preventive maintenance appointments should be scheduled every 3 to 4 months, with radiographs taken at 6 to 8 months for baseline comparison [31]. If no changes are observed, subsequent assessments may occur every 3 years; however, any detected crestal changes require radiographic reviews every 6 to 8 months until bone stabilization is achieved [32].

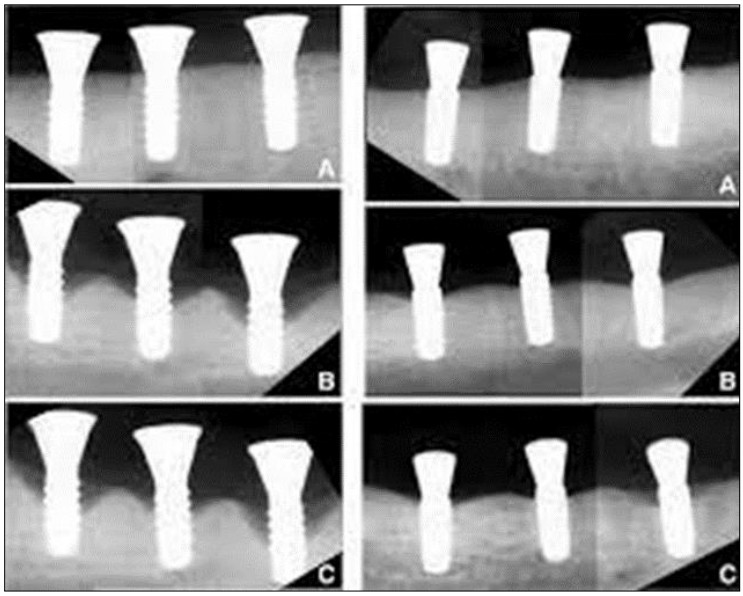

Fig 5: Radiographic assessment of impant and bone levels
Courtesy: Sanz J, Carral C, Blanco J, Sanz-Casado JV. Differences in the progression of experimental peri-implantitis depending on the implant to abutment connection. Clin Oral Investig. 2021; 25(Suppl 20):1-11

Evaluation of Implant Stability/Mobility: Unlike natural teeth, where mobility is not a significant factor for longevity, implant health heavily relies on rigid fixation, which is the primary clinical criterion for assessing dental implants [33]. Evaluation methods for implant mobility are similar to those for natural teeth, using two rigid instruments applying a labiolingual force of approximately 500 g [34]. Implant mobility is rated on a scale from 0 to 4, according to Misch, although this measurement is specific but lacks sensitivity in detecting early osseointegration loss [35]. The Periotest device (Figure 6) has been suggested for monitoring initial mobility; however, it has faced criticism for insufficient resolution and operator variability [36].

Fig 6: Perio test device
Courtesy: Pretty IA, Addy LD, Maupomé G. A closer look at diagnosis in clinical dental practice: Part 6. Emerging technologies for detection and diagnosis of noncaries dental problems. J Can Dent Assoc. 2004; 70(9):621-6.

A newer, noninvasive device utilizing resonance frequency analysis (RFA) (Figure 7) assesses primary stability and monitors changes over time, evaluating the stiffness of the bone-implant interface [37].

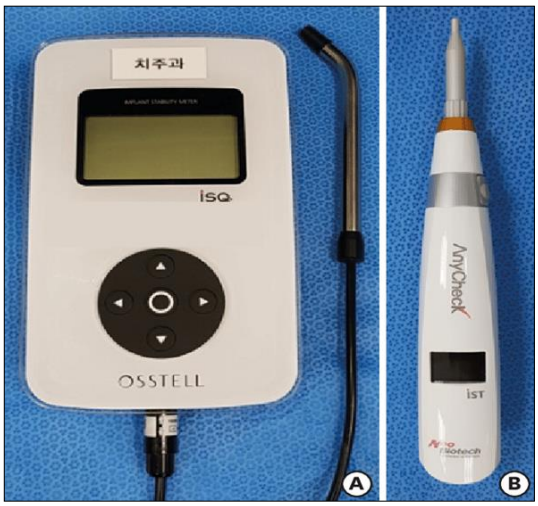

Fig 7: Resonance frequency analysis device
Courtesy: Lee J, Pyo SW, Cho HJ, An JS. Comparison of implant stability measurements between a resonance frequency analysis device and a modified damping capacity analysis device: An *in vitro* study. J Periodont Implant Sci. 2020; 50(1):56.

The role of keratinized gingiva around teeth and implants is debated, but its presence is beneficial at implants, enhancing stability due to a higher density of hemidesmosomes and reducing the risk of exposure during healing [38]. Moreover, mobile nonkeratinized tissues can unpredictably influence the formation of interdental papillae [39]. Analyzing peri-implant sulcus fluid (PISF) (Figure 8) offers a noninvasive method to evaluate disease activity, with research indicating correlations between PISF volume, plaque accumulation, and bone resorption. Implant failure rates are relatively low, ranging from 90-98%, but failures can occur early or late, primarily due to peri-implantitis and infection [40].

Fig 8: Periimplant sulcular fluid
Courtesy: Ilic MB, Jovanovic DV, Milosavljevic MZ, Stanković V, Đorđević G, Protrka Z, Nedovic J, Mitrovic SL. Small cell carcinoma of the ovary, hypercalcemic type. Vojnosanit Pregl. 2015; 72(3):295-8.

Early failures may arise from inadequate osseointegration caused by factors such as site preparation errors or premature loading, while late failures often relate to compromised stability from excessive load or infection. Patients with diabetes, smokers, and those with poor oral hygiene are particularly at risk, underscoring the necessity of diligent oral care from the time of implant placement [41]. The peri-implant mucosa comprises well-keratinized epithelium, sulcular epithelium, junctional epithelium, and connective tissue, forming a critical interface similar to the biologic width around natural teeth [42]. Disruptions in this relationship can lead to early crestal bone loss, while the junctional epithelium's capacity for rapid cell migration aids in maintaining stability at the implant site. Effective implant maintenance necessitates professional cleaning and patient-at-home care [43]. Scrupulous oral hygiene is crucial, especially since complex prosthesis designs may hinder effective cleaning. Regular follow-ups are advised, initially every 3 months during the first year, and then at least every 6 months thereafter, based on individual needs [44]. Tailored maintenance regimens consider a patient's home care capabilities, utilizing tools like manual scalers, ultrasonic devices, and various oral hygiene aids. At-home care is essential, particularly for patients with a history of inadequate hygiene. Comprehensive guidance, including verbal and visual instructions, is vital for ensuring long-term implant success [45]. Research indicates that smooth implant surfaces attract less plaque, making it important to recommend home care aids that protect the implant abutment. Patients should begin their care regimens immediately after surgical placement or healing, using chemical agents like chlorhexidine when mechanical cleaning is not suitable [46].

Role of the Dentist

A. Professional Cleaning

1. Sonic and Ultrasonic Scalers: The use of sonic and ultrasonic scalers (Figure 9) can result in micro-roughness and plaque accumulation on the implant surface, while stainless steel tips may damage the polished collar.

Fig 9: Ultrasonic scalers
Courtesy: https://www.dentistrytoday.com/sp-932212816/

To mitigate this, specialized attachments like nylon sleeves and plastic inserts can be utilized to facilitate effective cleaning with minimal risk of harm [47]. Given the fragile nature of the perimucosal seal, it is advisable to employ short working strokes with gentle pressure. Plastic probes are generally recommended, as they do not alter the surface, and nonmetal ultrasonic tips may be crucial for maintenance [48].

2. Plastic or Teflon-Coated Curettes: These instruments (Figure 10) are effective for addressing the subgingival area while preserving the surface topography of implants. Surfaces treated with plastic and titanium curettes exhibit a higher number of attached cells compared to those treated with stainless steel [49]. Depending on the calculus location, strokes can be horizontal, vertical, or oblique, and should be executed with an exploratory motion to prevent tissue damage [50].

Figure 10: Plastic or Teflon coated curettes
Courtesy: https://www.mydentalstock.com/titanium-coated-composite-filling-instruments.html

Brushing: Cleaning implants twice daily to eliminate bacterial plaque buildup should be performed using a soft toothbrush, such as the Nimbus Microfine (Nimbus Dental, Los Altos, CA, USA), or a very gentle electric toothbrush.

Also motorized toothbrush like Rota-Dent (Pro-Dentec, Professional Dental Technologies, Inc., Batesville, AR), with its patented microfilaments, is very gentle to the tissues, as well as nonabrasive to the abutment, and may be used along with a tapered brush to access the undersurface of connector bars or to aid with interdental cleansing [51]. Patients should be instructed in circular brushing according to the bass technique using small, soft-bristled brushes. Several automated/sonic tooth brushes with multiple brush tips have also been developed but may result in gingival abrasion from prolonged use [52]. An automated toothbrush, Sonicare, developed by the University of Washington and Optiva Corporation, Bellevue, WA, however, has been shown to not cause hard or soft tissue damage and to effectively reduce the plaque and inflammation around the adjacent periodontal tissues [53]. These brushes are considered superior to a manual toothbrush in removing plaque and they contribute to the improved interproximal cleaning due to the combination of their bristle shape and fluid penetration [54]. A patient with limited dexterity should use a power or sonic toothbrush (Figure 11). In difficult-to-access areas smaller-diameter toothbrush heads such as end-tufted brushes or tapered rotary brushes may be of benefit [55]. An end-tufted brush can be manipulated under hot water to accommodate the shape of the prosthesis and is especially useful in posterior regions where a conventional toothbrush might not reach [56].

Fig 11: Sonic toothbrush
Courtesy: https://www.dentistry33.com/clinical-cases/oral-hygiene-prevention/2098/comparing-electric-toothbrushes-sonic-power-versus-oscillating-rotating.html

Role of Patients: Home Care and Maintenance

1. **Manual Toothbrushes:** It is advisable to clean implants with manual toothbrushes that feature synthetic bristles with rounded tips, as implants are particularly vulnerable to erosion from mechanical forces. A medium-sized, short-headed soft toothbrush is optimal. Hollow-bristled brushes should be avoided, as they can harbor bacteria. The modified Bass technique of brushing should be employed, and tufted brushes can assist in reaching difficult areas, particularly in the posterior lingual regions [57].
2. **Mechanical Toothbrushes:** Electric toothbrushes are more effective than manual brushes for plaque removal. An automatic electric toothbrush is recommended as a daily cleaning method, with options for rotary, reciprocating, or sonic action [58].
3. **Water Irrigation:** A water irrigation device, such as the Hydro Floss (Hydro Floss, Inc.) (Figure 12), is also beneficial for maintaining implants. However, it is essential to direct the stream interproximally and horizontally between the implants, as improper positioning can unintentionally damage the peri-implant seal and lead to bacteremia [59].

Fig 12: Oral irrigator
Courtesy: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oral_irrigator

4. Interproximal/Circumferential Cleaning

Interproximal Brushes: Implant patients should use these tools only after receiving proper instruction. Interproximal brushes (Figure 13) come with interchangeable tips in various shapes but may feature exposed metal wire tips that can scratch the titanium surface of the abutment. Excessive pressure or worn brushes can lead to damage, so caution is necessary. A plastic-coated wire brush is recommended to prevent this issue. There are many types of flosses, interproximal cleaners, and water irrigation systems that are commercially available and safe for use around implants.[60]

Fig 13: Inter proximal brushes
Courtesy: https://www.tessoralhealth.com/product/605-interproximal-brush/

Floss: Floss selection is critical for effective interproximal plaque removal, tailored to specific clinical needs. Plastic floss, like ProxiFloss (AIT Dental Inc.), is designed from an elastomeric material that bends and flexes, preventing collapse or shredding while effectively cleaning and delivering medicaments to the implant surface [61]. Patients often find it challenging to maintain interdental hygiene, making dental floss a vital tool [62]. The Proxi-Floss Disposable Cleaning (Figure 14) Appliance features a textured surface for enhanced plaque removal, while super-floss is ideal for all implant types. Gentle insertion and motion are essential to avoid tissue trauma [63].

Fig 14: Proxi-floss disposable cleaning
Courtesy: https://www.ebay.com/itm/255116735456

For larger embrasure spaces, woven flosses with threaders (Figure 15) and options like Post Care's firmer braided cord are invaluable.

Fig 15: Woven flosses with threaders
Courtesy: https://www.amazon.sg/MySmile-Coconut-Infused-Flossers Threaders/dp/B0C9CZY7TJ

Satin floss (Figure 16) or Glide is excellent for single-tooth implants, while products like Thornton Bridge & Implant Cleaners or GUM Expanding Floss (Figure 17) work well for extensive prostheses [64].

Fig 16: Satin floss
Courtesy: https://www.dentaldirect.co.uk/oral-b-satin-floss-25m.html

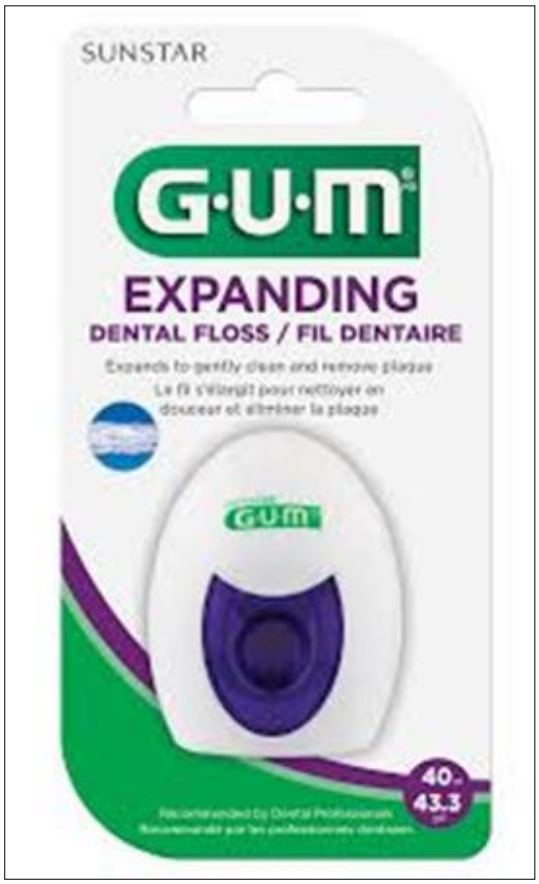

Fig 17: GUM expanding floss
Courtesy: https://sunstargum-sea.com/products/2030-gum-expanding-floss-40m/

Yarns can assist in larger spaces but should be avoided if there's a risk of snagging on rough surfaces [65]. Dental tapes (Figure 18) can be utilized in a "shoe-shine rag" technique for optimal care around abutment posts, while threader floss is useful for accessing bridgework [66].

Fig 18: Dental tapes
Courtesy: https://www.dentalfloss.co.uk/products/dental-floss/

It's crucial to floss not only the mesial and distal surfaces but also the facial and lingual areas. Interdental aids, including foam tips and interproximal brushes, are effective for plaque removal and delivering antiseptic rinses [67]. When selecting interproximal brushes, larger gaps can benefit from proxy brushes like StaiNo Interdental Brushes (Figure 19), while smaller brushes such as the sulcabrush are suited for narrower areas [68].

Fig 19: StaiNo interdental brush
Courtesy: https://www.amazon.com/Staino-Interdental-Brush-Jumbos-Tapered/dp/B00KE2DRZY

Caution is warranted with brushes that have exposed metal wire tips, as these can damage the titanium surface of the abutment; hence, plastic-coated wire brushes are preferred [69]. Chemotherapeutic agents can also be precisely applied using foam tips and the Proxi-Tip, which combines the functionality of both an interproximal brush and rubber tip. For optimal implant care, patients should brush 2-3 times daily and floss at least once, ensuring comprehensive coverage around the

implant to prevent food impaction [70]. For bridge implants, be diligent in cleaning underneath and alongside the sides, using floss threaders as necessary. Complement daily hygiene with a Waterpik or similar irrigation device, and consider using interproximal brushes to tackle hard-to-reach areas [71]. Most fluoride toothpaste is safe for implants, but avoid abrasive formulas like those containing baking soda, as they can damage porcelain crowns. Regular dental hygiene appointments every 3-6 months are essential [72]. In cases of peri-implant mucositis, mechanical scaling with plastic, titanium, or carbon fiber instruments is recommended [73]. For more advanced peri-implantitis, a surgical approach involving a full-thickness muco-periosteal flap, thorough debridement with titanium curettes, and the use of chlorhexidine-soaked gauze for decontamination is crucial (Figure 20).

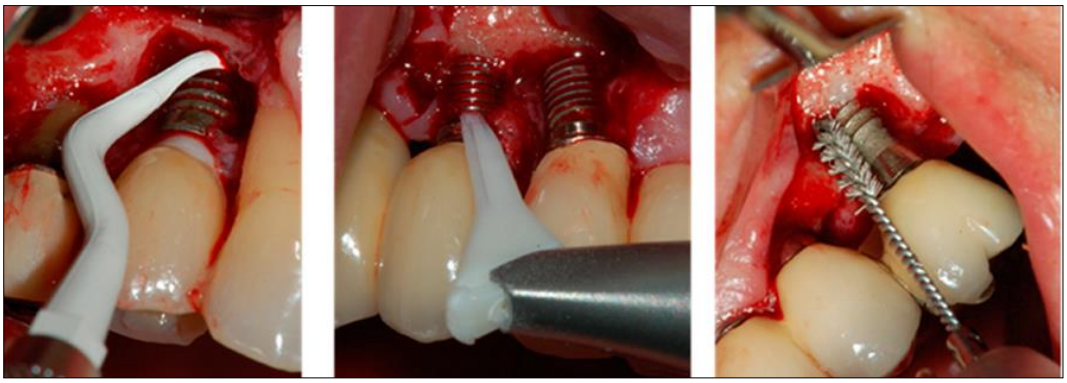

Fig 20: Management of peri-implantitis through involvement of full-thickness muco-periosteal flap, thorough debridement with titanium curettes

Courtesy: Toma S, Brecx M, Lasserre JF. Clinical evaluation of three surgical modalities in the treatment of peri-implantitis: a randomized controlled clinical trial. J Clin Med. 2019; 8(7):966.

If possible, grafting with hydroxyapatite bone mineral, applying a barrier membrane for defects, and administering systemic antibiotics post-operatively will enhance recovery and implant longevity [74].

Instrument Selection: Instruments for implant maintenance should be lightweight, disposable or sterilizable, and effective in removing plaque and calculus without damaging the implant surface. It's crucial to avoid metallic instruments, such as stainless steel, for probing or scaling, as they can scratch, roughen, or contaminate the implant, increasing the risk of bacterial accumulation and peri-implant inflammation. [75]. Instead, plastic instruments are recommended for scaling, as they cause minimal alteration to the implant surface, though they may leave some residue [76]. Reinforced plastic tools and gold-plated curettes offer additional rigidity and can be sharpened, but caution is necessary to prevent chipping the gold layer, which could expose the underlying alloy [77]. When using these instruments, the blade should be pressed against the abutment and then opened past the deposit, employing short, light strokes to minimize trauma to the delicate peri-implant sulcus [78]. Ultrasonic or sonic scalers with plastic sleeves can assist in difficult areas where prosthetic devices hinder access. The calculus that forms on implants is typically softer than that on natural teeth and is mostly supragingival, although tougher deposits may occasionally occur [79]. Products like SofScale can be used prior to scaling to reduce the risk of scratching during removal. Commercially available tools for cleaning implant surfaces include the Implacare scaler made from high-grade Plasteel, the 3i-Implant Innovations scaler crafted from high-tech plastic, the Steri-Oss scaler system made of graphite-reinforced nylon (Figure 21), and various Implant Cleaning Kits. These specialized instruments are essential for maintaining the health and integrity of dental implants [80].

Fig 21: Steri-Oss scaler system

Courtesy: https://www.dentaltix.com/en/mectron/s-implant-cleaning-scaler-set

Polishing: The primary purpose of polishing an implant is to effectively remove plaque, ensuring the longevity of the highly polished titanium surface of the implant abutment. 3i-Implant Innovations, Inc. provides a specialized polishing kit that includes Abutment Glo polishing paste, along with various polishing cups and soft-tipped brushes [81]. After hard deposits have been removed, prostheses and abutments can be polished using a rubber cup (Figure 22) with non-abrasive pastes such as aluminum oxide, tin oxide, or APF-free prophy paste (Figure 23).

Fig 22: Rubber polishing cups
Courtesy: https://www.libraltraders.com/ld-rubber-polishing-cup-pack-of-12-pcs.html

Fig 23: Prophy paste
Courtesy: https://dentalexpress.in/products/pyrax-prophylaxis-prophy-paste-dental-polishing-paste-75-gms-jar

In situations where polishing agents are not desired, an antibacterial solution like chlorhexidine is appropriate [82]. When only soft debris is present, a deplaquing approach is beneficial. However, caution must be exercised with certain polishing techniques. Coarse abrasive pastes and air powder polishing units are contraindicated due to their potential to damage the implant surface [83]. While some studies support the use of air-abrasive units like PROPHY Pearls and Jet Fresh for effective deposit removal, others highlight significant risks [84]. Air polishing can create surface irregularities on titanium, damage porcelain or composite materials, and may dislodge the soft tissue connection from the implant, increasing the risk of complications such as emphysema. To safely polish titanium or titanium alloy surfaces, it is recommended to use a rubber cup with a non-abrasive polishing paste or a gauze strip with tin oxide. Careful consideration of polishing methods is essential to maintain the health and integrity of dental implants [85].

Oral Irrigators: Subgingival irrigation, with or without antimicrobials, is advisable for maintaining implant health. Oral irrigators containing chlorhexidine gluconate can be effective, but care must be taken not to insert the cannula too deeply into the sulcus to avoid tissue distention. Patients should be instructed to use the lowest pressure setting to prevent trauma to the implant tissue cuff, as excessive pressure can lead to complications like bacteremia [86]. Mechanical debridement with 0.12% chlorhexidine has been shown to reduce inflammation by lowering plaque levels and peri-implant probing depths in cases of peri-implant mucositis. Additionally, chlorhexidine mouthwash can be applied around implants using a cotton swab or toothbrush for further antimicrobial support [87].

Locally Applied Chemotherapeutics: Early intervention with locally applied antibiotics or antimicrobials, such as Arestin, Atridox, PerioChip, or Dentomycin, can effectively combat inflammation around dental implants [88]. Subgingival irrigation with antiseptics like peroxide, Listerine, or chlorhexidine-delivered through a nonmetallic cannula with rounded tips-ensures precise application while minimizing tissue trauma. It's crucial to avoid fluid distention in surrounding tissues during insertion. For patients with implants, neutral sodium fluoride is recommended, as certain acidic fluorides can negatively impact titanium [89]. Research by Renvert *et al*. has shown that nonsurgical mechanical treatment using microencapsulated minocycline and 0.12% chlorhexidine gel significantly reduces pocket depths and bleeding on probing for up to 12 months [90]. Additionally, antimicrobial mouth rinses, including chlorhexidine gluconate and Listerine, are effective in reducing plaque accumulation around implants. However, prolonged use may lead to staining, so these rinses should complement regular brushing and flossing to minimize discoloration. Foam tips are particularly beneficial for applying therapeutic agents interdentally, enhancing overall oral hygiene and ensuring the longevity of implant maintenance [91].

Intraoral Camera: The intraoral camera (Figure 24) can be used for periodic tissue checks by the patient or to check the effectiveness of their oral care routine and can be connected to a patient's television. Patient can pinpoint any food lodgment, redness, swelling, or other signs around the implant and severe infections can be avoided by taking early preventive steps [92].

Fig 24: Intra oral Camera
Courtesy: https://www.visionflex.com/product/peripherals/dental-cameras/dental-camera-intraoral-hd/

Future Prospects: The future of implant maintenance promises significant advancements driven by technological innovation and a deeper understanding of patient care. As materials and techniques evolve, the introduction of more biocompatible and durable materials can be expected that enhance implant longevity and performance [93]. Digital tools (Figure 25) and predictive analytics will play a crucial role in monitoring implant health, allowing for real-time data collection and early detection of potential issues.

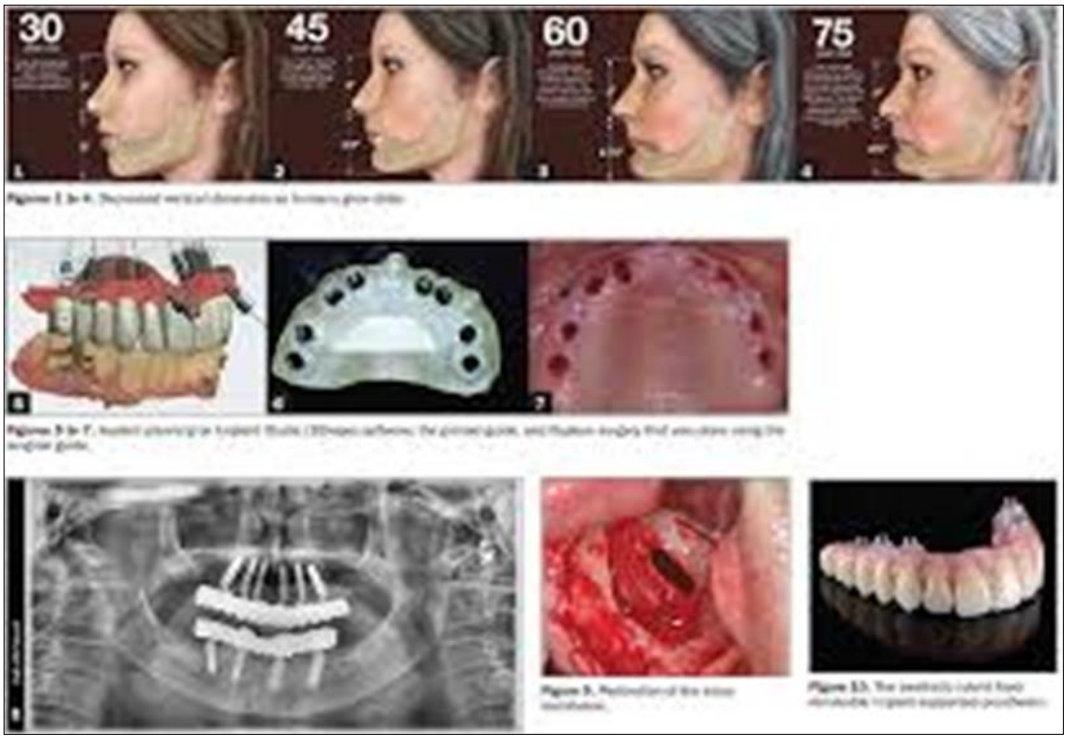

Fig 25: CAD/CAM in impantology
Courtesy: https://www.dentistrytoday.com/full-arch-cad-cam-implant-supported-reconstruction-a-guided-protocol-using-digital-technologies/

This proactive approach will enable clinicians to tailor maintenance protocols to individual patient needs, improving outcomes and satisfaction. Education will also be a cornerstone of future developments, with initiatives designed to empower both clinicians and patients. Enhanced training for dental professionals will focus on the latest techniques and technologies, while patient education programs will emphasize the importance of preventive care and regular checkups. Collaboration among dental specialists will drive research into innovative maintenance strategies, fostering a multidisciplinary approach to implant care. This teamwork will help identify new ways to prevent complications, such as peri-implantitis, and optimize long-term results [94]. Furthermore, advancements in home care tools will provide patients with effective means to maintain their implants between professional visits. Enhanced flossing devices, specialized brushes, and irrigators will become standard recommendations, making it easier for patients to adhere to their care regimens. Ultimately, these developments will lead to improved long-term success rates for dental implants, fostering a culture of proactive maintenance that prioritizes both patient health and satisfaction. As we embrace these future directions, the goal will be to ensure that implant therapies continue to thrive, providing patients with reliable and effective solutions for their dental needs [95].

Conclusion

Successful implant therapy implies healthy and stable peri-implant conditions. This requires both professional maintenance by the dentist and diligent home care by the patient to ensure the long-term success of the implants. Long-term success in both periodontal and implant therapy depends on an effective partnership between the patient and practitioner. With ongoing research in dentistry, new techniques and aids will continue to develop for the long-term maintenance of implants. In envisioning the future of implant maintenance, it is essential to prioritize advancements and sustained efficacy. The integration of innovative technologies and methodologies will enhance our ability to monitor and maintain implant health effectively. Emphasizing patient engagement and education is crucial, as empowered patients are more likely to adhere to maintenance protocols, thereby improving clinical outcomes. A collaborative approach between dental professionals and patients will foster a culture of proactive care, ensuring that dental implants not only function optimally but also contribute to the overall well-being of patients. As we continue to refine our practices and embrace new developments, the goal remains clear: to ensure the long-term success and durability of dental implants, ultimately enhancing patients' quality of life.

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