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**Dr. Kondumahanti VN Avinash**  
Post-Graduate Student, AECS  
Maaruti College of Dental  
Sciences and Research Center,  
Bangalore, India

**Dr. Ritika Sampathkumar**  
Senior Lecturer, Department of  
Prosthodontics and oral  
Implantology, AECS Maaruti  
College of Dental Sciences and  
Research Center, Bangalore,  
Karnataka, India

**Dr. Venkat Raghu**  
Post-Graduate Student, AECS  
Maaruti College of Dental  
Sciences and Research Center,  
Bangalore, Karnataka, India

**Dr. Chiranjeevi Reddy G**  
Professor, Department of  
Prosthodontics and oral  
Implantology, AECS Maaruti  
College of Dental Sciences and  
Research Center, Bangalore,  
Karnataka, India

**Dr. Subash Munireddy**  
Professor, AECS Maaruti College  
of Dental Sciences and Research  
Center, Bangalore, Karnataka,  
India

**Dr. Jayakar Shetty**  
Professor and Head of the  
Department, Department of  
Prosthodontics and oral  
Implantology, AECS Maaruti  
College of Dental Sciences and  
Research Center, Bangalore,  
Karnataka, India

### Correspondence

**Dr. Kondumahanti VN Avinash**  
Post-Graduate Student, AECS  
Maaruti College of Dental  
Sciences and Research Center,  
Bangalore, Karnataka, India

## Implants in narrow ridge situations: A piezo-surgical approach for alveolar ridge split

**Dr. Kondumahanti VN Avinash, Dr. Ritika Sampathkumar, Dr. Venkat Raghu, Dr. Chiranjeevi Reddy G, Dr. Subash Munireddy and Dr. Jayakar Shetty**

### Abstract

Insufficient bone width often reduces the survival of the implant. In such situations the width of the bone has to be increased. There are various methods to increase bone width like guided bone regeneration, Onlay grafts, horizontal and vertical distraction osteogenesis and Alveolar ridge split. Alveolar ridge split technique has proven to be successful. It can be performed by using conventional methods as well as modern methods like Piezo surgical methods. This is a case report of one such case where Piezo surgical method was utilized to augment the bone.

**Keywords:** Narrow ridge, Piezo-surgical, approach

### Introduction

The success of the implant therapy will be greatly enhanced when the principle that “Implant placement must be prosthetically driven not bone driven” is followed [1]. Upon the loss of tooth the residual alveolar bone undergoes bone resorption in vertical, sagittal and transverse phases [2]. Initially the resorption in transverse direction is predominant. This phenomenon results in Reducing the width of the residual alveolar ridge. Placement of implant in such scenarios is often a challenging task.

A minimum of 1.5 mm bone should be present on around the implant [3]. Hence it should be understood that ridge augmentation procedures are necessary for the situations where the bucco- lingual thickness of available bone is less than 6mm. [4-8].

For the reconstruction of ridge width, height or both various pre-implant bone augmentation techniques were introduced. They include guided bone regeneration (GBR) with a cancellous graft, onlay/veneer block graft, inlay grafting, alveolar ridge split, and vertical and horizontal distraction osteogenesis [9].

### Ridge preservation

These ridge preservation approaches have utilized GBR principles using the following regenerative techniques;

Resorbable and non-resorbable barrier membranes alone, Resorbable barrier membranes in combination with bone substitutes, Bone substitutes alone and Bone substitutes in combination with soft tissue grafts technologies “Any therapeutic approach carried out immediately after tooth extraction aimed to preserve the alveolar socket architecture and to provide the maximum bone availability for implant placement” [10] hard and soft tissue changes occurring 6 months after tooth extraction in humans and demonstrated a horizontal bone loss 29–63% vertical bone loss 11–22% [11].

Bone regeneration in fresh extraction sockets Immediate and early implant placement (type 1 and 2) protocols have been indicated as the most suitable for implant placement following tooth extraction Eduardo Anitua and Mohammad H. Alkbraisat stated that the alveolar ridge split is an effective technique for the treatment of atrophic ridge [12]. The advantages of the minimally invasive techniques are excellent esthetics, minimal discomfort, avoiding grafting or barriers, decreased healing interval and better patient acceptance [13].

There are various devices for ridge split procedure. They are classified as Traditional devices

and Modern devices. Chisel and hand mallet, Osteotomes, Surgical burs, micro-saw blade comprise of traditional devices whereas Modern devices consists of Motorized ridge expander, Treaded Bone expanders, Expansion Crest Device, LASER, Ultrasonic/ Piezoelectric Device [14].

The following is a case report on the Alveolar Ridge Split [ARS] by using Piezoelectric Device.

**Case Report**

A 23 year old female came to the department of

prosthodontics with the chief complaint of missing tooth in the lower left jaw region. All the treatment modalities were explained to the patient. She chose the replacement of the missing tooth with implant followed by crown. Primary diagnostic procedures were conducted and in CBCT report it was found that on 4.4 mm of bucco-lingual bone availability. On examination it was found that it belongs to Class III of Tolstunov’s classification of alveolar ridge width. Hence it was planned to augment the alveolar ridge using piezoelectric device in order to increase the alveolar bone width.

Class	Alveolar ridge width in mm based on CBCT scan	Alveolar ridge deficiency	Indications for Surgery	Immediate Implant Insertion
0	>10	No deficiency	Hard tissue surgery is not indicated. Occasionally, alveolar width (buccal convexity) can be improved for esthetic reasons with a soft tissue graft	Yes
I	8-10	Minimal	Hard tissue surgery is rarely indicated. Occasionally, alveolar width can be improved by particulate bone graft or palatal soft tissue graft for esthetic and prosthetic reasons	Yes
II	6-8	Mild	Particulate (GBR) grafting or ridge - split is often needed to improve labial bone projection and proper occlusal implant position	Yes/no, depends on presence of apical bone for primary implant stability
III	4-6	Moderate	An ideal width for the ridge-split procedure that can be done in a single- or two-stage approach [Figure 3]. Block graft or GBR can also be done	Yes/no, depends on presence of apical bone for primary implant stability
IV	2-4	Severe	Ridge-split or block bone graft is a graft of choice (surgeon’s experience)	Not recommended
V	<2	Extreme	Large extraoral block graft is a preferable surgical choice. Alternative is multiple and sequential augmentation procedures	No
VI	6-10/2-4	“Hourglass” (undercut) (buccal or lingual)	GBR at the mid ridge level can be done	Yes/no, depends on the severity of the undercut
VII	2-4/6-10	“Bottleneck”	Ridge reshaping or GBR at the top of the ridge can be done	Usually yes, can depend on the morphology of the top portion of the ridge

CBCT=Cone beam computed tomography, GBR=Guided bone regeneration

Tolstunov’s classification of alveolar ridge width

**Surgical Procedure**

Initially asepsis of the surgical field was done. Inferior alveolar nerve block was given to incorporate the local anesthesia. Upon successful onset of local anesthesia a crestal incision was given using number 15 BP instrument. Relieving incisions were also given. The flap was reflected. The center of the ridge is marked. The tip of the piezoelectric device was placed on the top of the ridge at the denoted mark and the device was activated. The tip was inserted into the bone and the ultrasonic vibrations of the tip make it possible to cut through the bone. The proposed length of the implant is 9mm. hence the tip is inserted into the bone till the required depth of the drill is achieved. Once the depth is achieved the drills of the implant surgical kit were used in order to increase the width. An Implant of dimensions 3.1mm\* 9mm was placed. Cover screw was placed and the flap is sutured back. The position of the implant was checked using radiograph. The post-operation instructions, with special emphasis on the maintenance of oral hygiene, were given and the patient was scheduled for a recall after 1 week, 1 month and 3 months.

**Discussion**

It is established that the width of the bone should be greater than 6mm for the successful treatment. If the sufficient bone width is not available, implant placement may result in dehiscence or off axial loading of the force. Hence any

situation less than 6mm bone requires transverse bone augmentation [4-8]. Although there are various protocols are available ridge augmentation with ridge split techniques were proven to be successful.

In 1970 Dr Hit Tatum used D-shaped osteotomes to split the alveolar bone. In 1985 he expanded the atrophic ridges of greater than 3mm [15]. In 1992 Simon *et al.* used longitudinal green stick fracture in order to extend the socket, performed through osteotomies [16]. Later Summers and Schipani in 1994 revived this procedure and achieved 98% success rate [17, 18]. Summers has described the technique with progressively increasing osteotomes to create osteotomy that is closely receptacle to implant dimension. Padmanabhan and Gupta had found greater crestal bone loss associated with this technique [19].

In 2000 Vercellotti introduced piezo surgery in the treatment of atrophic jaw. This made the split technique easier, safer, and also reduced the risk of complications [20].

The indications of the ARS are situations that don’t require vertical bone augmentation and situations where the bucco-lingual width of 3mm is available. The advantages of this technique are it maintains the integrity of the periosteum and this procedure never allows the loss of patient bone. The disadvantages of this technique are it cannot achieve vertical height and also this technique is difficult to perform in single tooth replacement situations rather than long edentulous

areas where the operator can take the advantage of elasticity of bone [21].

Anitua E, Begoña L, Orive G found that there is 100% success rate in implant survival rate after ridge-split procedure. This was regardless of implant system and complications. Sethi has reported 97% success rate of this procedure [23].

Buccal bone fracture can happen as a complication of this procedure. Excessive bleeding may occur. Other complications are rare [24].



**Fig 3:** Asepsis



**Fig 4:** Crestal incision



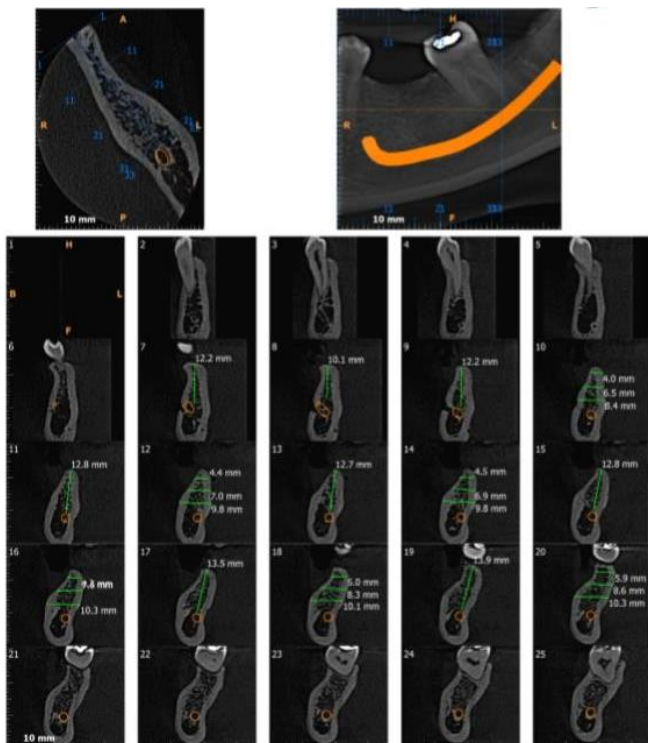
**Fig 5:** Reflecting the flap



**Fig 6:** Measuring the width of the alveolar ridge



**Fig 1:** Pre-op Intra oral pictures



**Fig 2:** CBCT report showing inadequate bone



**Fig 7:** Piezo-surgical device for ridge split



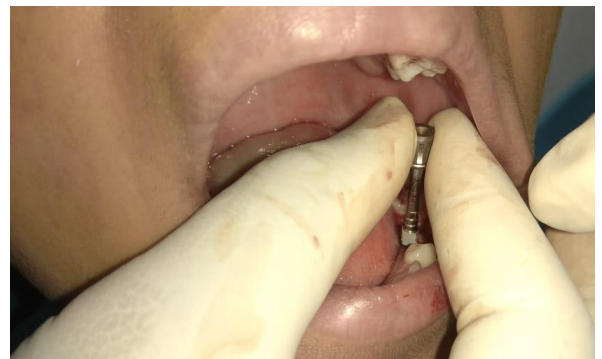
**Fig 8:** Increase in bone width



**Fig 11:** Final osteotomy



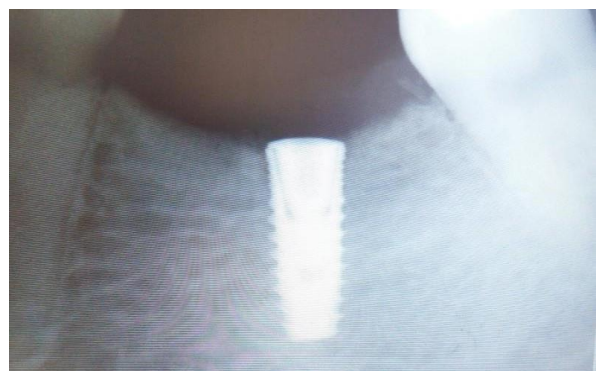
**Fig 9:** Drill for the implant placement



**Fig 12:** Implant Placement



**Fig 10:** Checking the depth of the drill



**Fig 13:** Radiographic verification of implant placement



**Fig 14:** Patient Frontal and lateral view

### Conclusion

The advantage of ARS technique is that implants can be placed at the time of primary surgery. This is possible as the bone is widened and it reduces the morbidity and cost. Although the osteotomes are simple and cost effective, the usage of modern devices like piezo surgical devices are also being used on larger scale. This is mainly because of the advantages like prevention of trauma to mucosa, nerves and blood vessels. There is also less trauma to the bone when these devices are employed. This results in faster healing. Considering all the advantages, these devices should be used more.

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