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## **Evaluation of bone gain and implant survival after vertical and horizontal ridge augmentation using titanium mesh with simultaneous implant placement in deficient maxillary and mandibular ridge: A prospective clinical study**

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### **Abstract**

The present clinical study was conducted with a one-stage approach for alveolar ridge augmentation using titanium mesh with simultaneous implant placement in the compromised ridges. This prospective study included a total no. of 26 partially edentulous sites which were treated with implants and simultaneous guided bone regeneration with titanium mesh. We found a significant increase in the bucco-lingual width at implant site when comparison was made at different time intervals. We found a significant decrease in the mean bone density on the mesial side ( $1934.62 \pm 598.26$  gray units), while no significant decrease in the mean bone density was found on the distal side ( $1873 \pm 576.12$  gray units) when compared at immediate post-operative and 6-months post-operative time interval. Despite the use of micropore titanium mesh, we have noticed membrane exposure in 10 patients (71.42%) among 14 patients which resulted in detrimental influence on the amount of bone augmentation. The bucco-lingual width of the alveolar crest has been significantly increased, but we couldn't achieve any optimal gain in alveolar crest height.

**Keywords:** GBR, alveolar ridge augmentation, titanium mesh, one-stage approach, PRF, xenografts

### **Introduction**

Dental rehabilitation with osseointegrated dental implant is a treatment of choice among patients suffering from tooth loss as it avoids cutting of adjacent normal or sound tooth structure with predictable long-term prognosis. Adequate alveolar bone is important not only for the prosthesis' aesthetic appearance, but also for its biomechanical support. However, presence of alveolar ridge deficiency, anatomic constraints preclude the placement of normal sized dental implants [1]. To counteract these problems, several bone regenerative surgical techniques (additive, distraction, expansion) with adjuvant measures (PRF, barrier membranes, growth factors) are available with their own advantages and limitations [2-7]. Graft materials such as autologous, homologous, heterologous and synthetic bone are used singly or in combination. Autologous bone (AB) graft is considered the "gold standard" due to its high biocompatibility, osteoinductive, osteoconductive and osteogenic ability, but the limited availability of intraoral sites and the donor site morbidity has restricted its use. In the literature, the anorganic bovine bone (ABB) has revealed a long-term success in ridge augmentation technique as it possesses fundamental characteristics of biocompatibility and osteoconductivity [8, 9]. It produces a good scaffold for new bone formation and hence it is being widely used for vertical and horizontal augmentation, sinus lift procedure and socket preservation [10-12]. The purpose of the present prospective clinical study is to evaluate the implant stability, horizontal and vertical bone gain after ridge augmentation with xenografts in the patients treated with titanium meshes positioned simultaneously with dental implants fixed over them.

**Material and Method**

This prospective study included a total no. of 14 patients in whom implants were placed at 26 sites with deficient alveolar volume using one-stage approach within anatomic constraints areas. All the patients were healthy with minor medical comorbidities. Ethical clearance and written consent was obtained. For all the patients a careful clinical and radiographic analysis was performed pre-operatively and surgical stents was fabricated for ease in implant placement.

**Surgical Technique**

Under aseptic condition, full thickness quadrangular mucoperiosteal flap was raised to expose the implant site after administering local anesthesia. Then osteotomy was performed, starting with a lance drill and then using consecutive drills to achieve the desired diameter and length for implant placement. The implant shoulder was positioned above the level of the adjacent teeth with a minimum of two threads exposed. The vertical dimension of the exposed implant surface was measured with a Michigan periodontal probe. The stability of the implant was determined clinically by the removal of implant driver. Alveolar decortication was performed around the graft recipient area. Hydroxyapatite and anorganic bovine bone (xenograft) was carefully packed around the exposed threads and nearby area. 0.07mm thickness micropore titanium mesh was adjusted according to the individual anatomy, modelled and finally secured with the titanium screws over the grafted site. An absorbable membrane of PRF was adapted over the titanium mesh to prevent soft tissue dehiscence. Closure of the surgical site was then performed with 3-0 vicryl suture material. Patients were kept on oral antibiotics and analgesics for 5 days. All the patients were followed with a minimum period of 6-months and complications present were noted. Second-stage surgery was performed after 3-months followed by prosthetic rehabilitation. Radiographic assessment was made with the help of CBCT to evaluate overall changes in the bone height, quality, and quantity of the bone around the exposed threads of the implant at pre-operative, immediate post-operative, and 6-months postoperative follow-up period in all the patients. (figure: 1,2a,2b,2c,3a,3b,3c)

**Statistical Analysis**

The data was entered in microsoft excel format and was analyzed using SPSS version 21(IBM SPSS Corp. Ltd. Armonk, N.Y).The continuous data was represented as mean ± S.D. Bivariate analysis was done using Paired t test. P value <0.05 was considered as significant.

**Results**

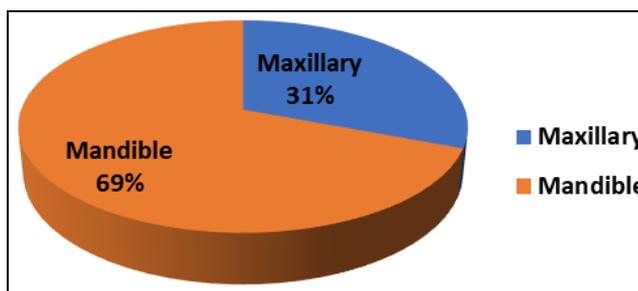
The study included 26 implant sites in 14 patients, among which 10 were males and 4 females with age range between 18–42 years (mean age 32 years) at the time of implant

placement. (Table:1, graph 1,2,3) From pre-operative CBCT scan analysis it was confirmed that the ridge was too narrow for the placement of conventional implant diameter as shown in pre-operative CBCT. In this study, the minimum implant dimensions used was 3.75×8 mm. We found a significant increase in the bucco-lingual width at implant site from pre-operative to immediate post-operative time interval, immediate post-operative to 6-months post-operative time interval and from pre-operative to 6-months post-operative time interval. (Table:2,graph:4) Height of the alveolar crest was measured on the proximal sites of exposed implant threads. We found no significant difference in the mean alveolar crestal height level when comparison was made at different time intervals. (Table:3, graph:5) We found a significant decrease in the mean bone density on the mesial side, while no significant decrease in the mean bone density was found on the distal side when compared at immediate post-operative and 6-months post-operative time interval. Hence, these results showed the failure of graft integration with the native bone more on the mesial side as compared to distal side. (Table:4, graph 6) Mesh exposure was seen in 10 patients among 14 patients. This mesh exposure was seen on lingual aspect in 2 patients, on buccal aspect in 2 patient and on occlusal aspect in 6 patients. (Table:5)

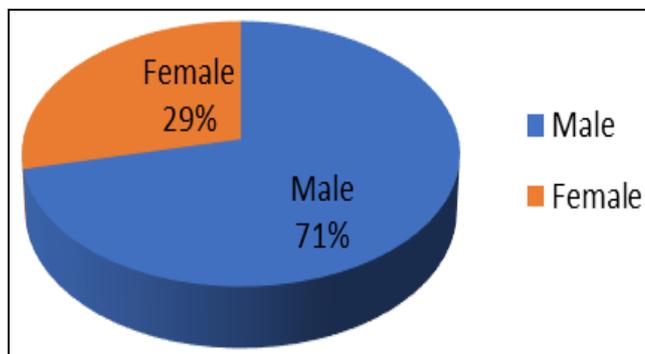
**Table 1:** Demographic data depicting the total no. of patients, age, gender, and site of implant placement.

Patient	Age	Gender	Implant Site (Tooth number*)
1	41years	Male	35
			36
			45
			47
2	35years	Male	35
3	18years	Female	24
			25
4	42years	Male	26
5	23years	Male	35
			36
			37
6	41years	Male	37
7	30years	Female	16
8	18years	Male	36
9	42years	Female	27
10	32years	Male	35
			36
			45
			47
11	24years	Female	24
12	40years	Male	26
13	42years	Male	45
			46
			47
14	35years	Male	24
			25

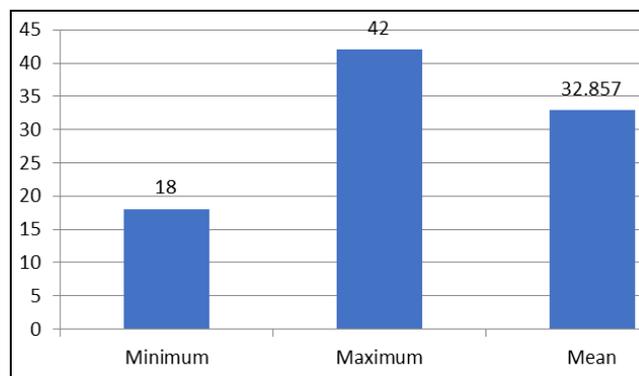
\*(Tooth no. = according to FDI tooth numbering system)



**Graph 1:** Distribution according to sites



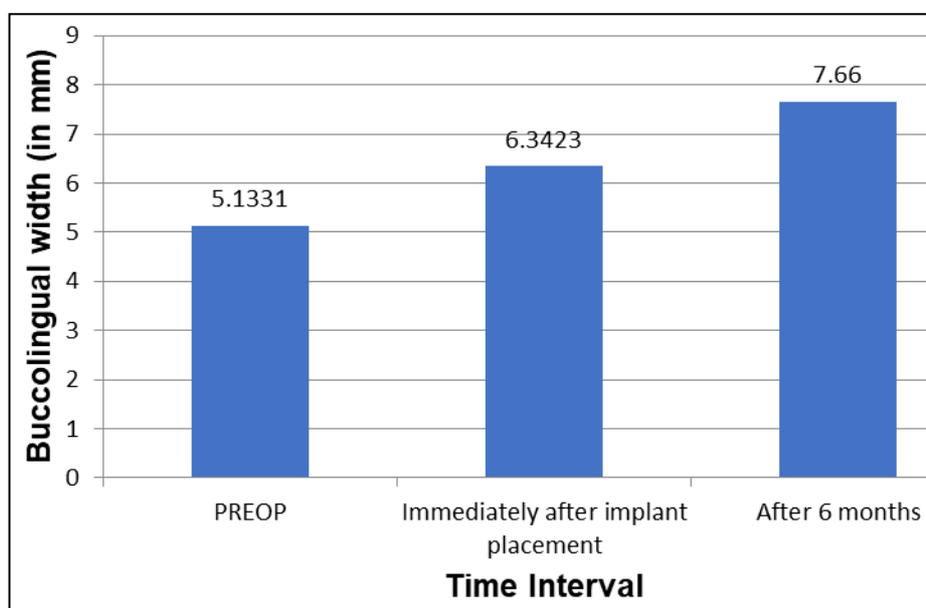
Graph 2: Gender wise distribution



Graph 3: Mean age (in years)

Table 2: Comparison of buccolingual width at different time intervals (in mm)

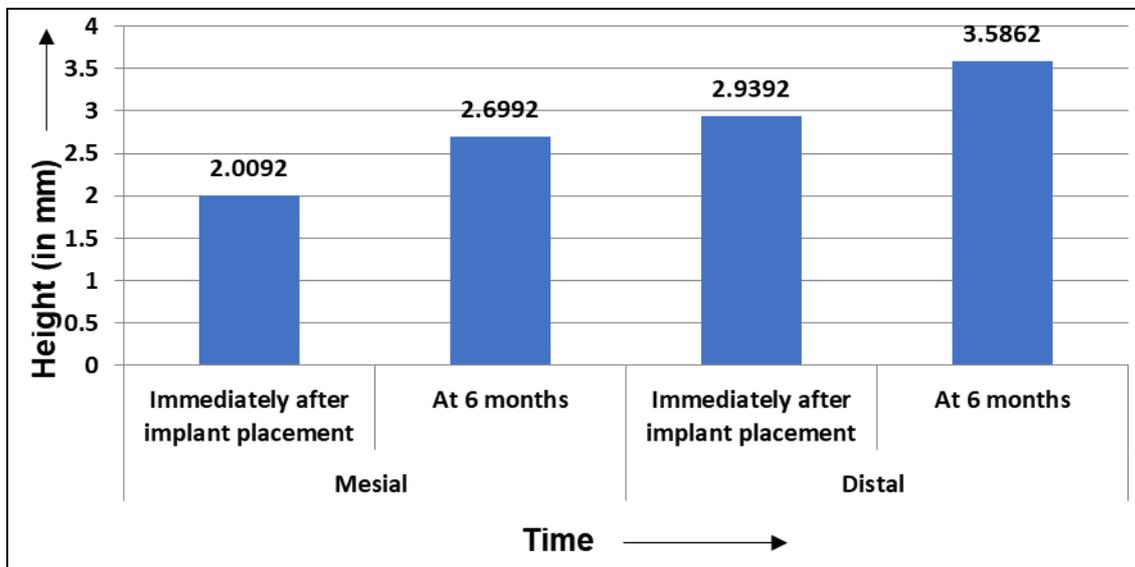
	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Mean difference	Std dev	P value
PREOP	5.1331	26	1.75685	.48726	-1.20923	1.85956	0.037
Immediately after implant placement	6.3423	26	2.08207	.57746			
Immediately after implant placement	6.3423	26	2.08207	.57746	-1.31769	1.06311	0.001
After 6 months	7.6600	26	2.31054	.64083			
PREOP	5.1331	26	1.75685	.48726	-2.52692	2.14141	0.001
After 6 months	7.6600	26	2.31054	.64083			



Graph 4: Buccolingual width (in mm)

Table 3: Mean alveolar crestal height level (in mm)

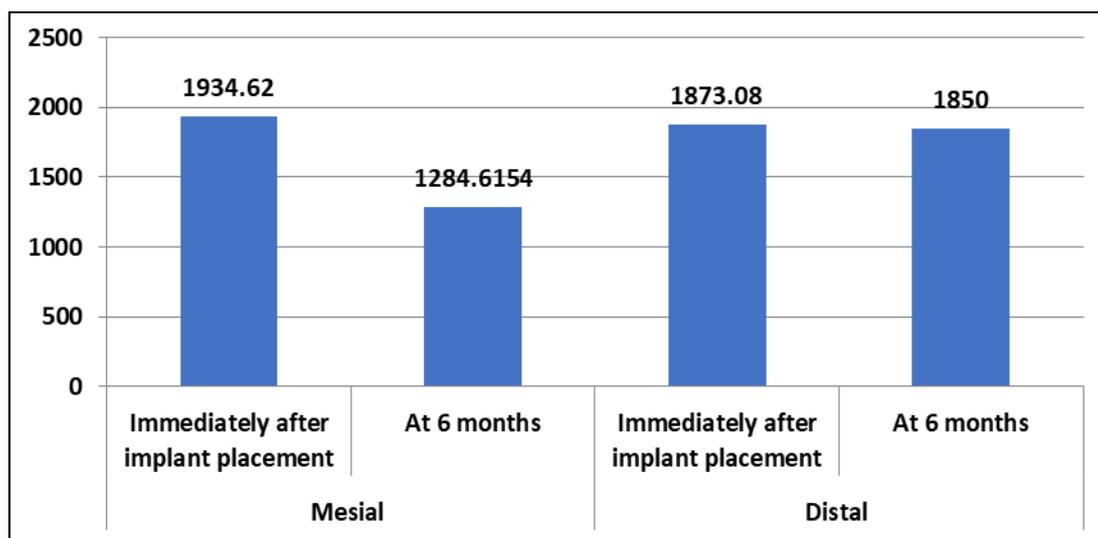
	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Mean difference	Std dev	P value
Mesial	Immediately after implant placement	2.0092	26	1.63995	-.69000	1.33570	.087
	At 6 months	2.6992	26	1.69681			
Distal	Immediately after implant placement	2.9392	26	1.88333	-.64692	2.12994	.295
	At 6 months	3.5862	26	2.33142			



**Graph 5:** Mean alveolar crestal height level (in mm)

**Table 4:** Comparison of mean bone density (in Gray Scale)

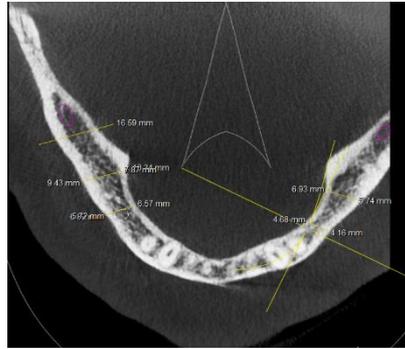
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Mean difference	Std dev	P value
Mesial	Immediately after implant placement	1934.62	26	447.858	124.214	650.00000	598.26137	0.002
	At 6 months	1284.6154	26	483.21174	134.01882			
Distal	Immediately after implant placement	1873.08	26	319.254	88.545	23.07692	576.12766	0.888
	At 6 months	1850.0000	26	697.01746	193.31786			



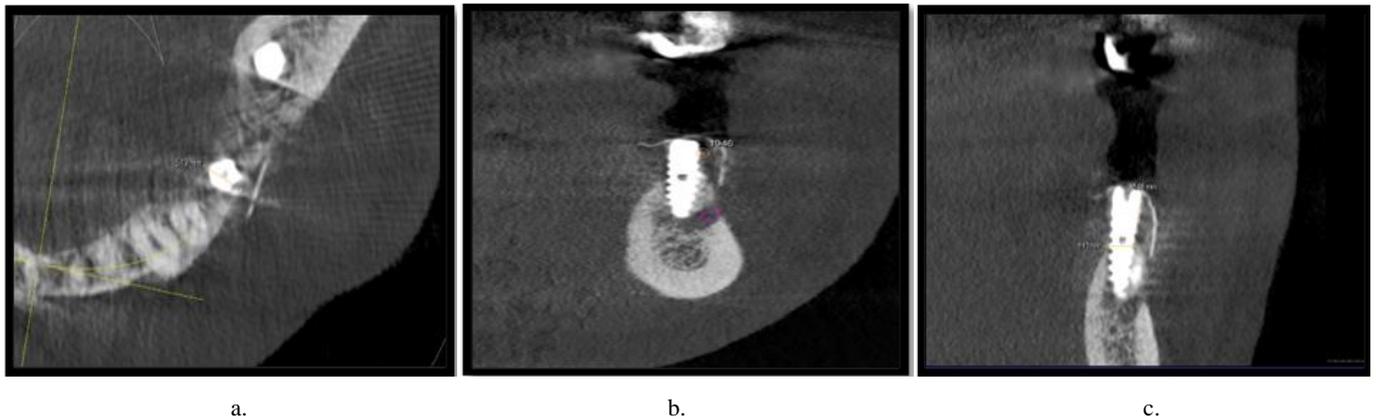
**Graph 6:** Bone density ( in Gray Scale)

**Table 5:** Data depicting mesh exposure

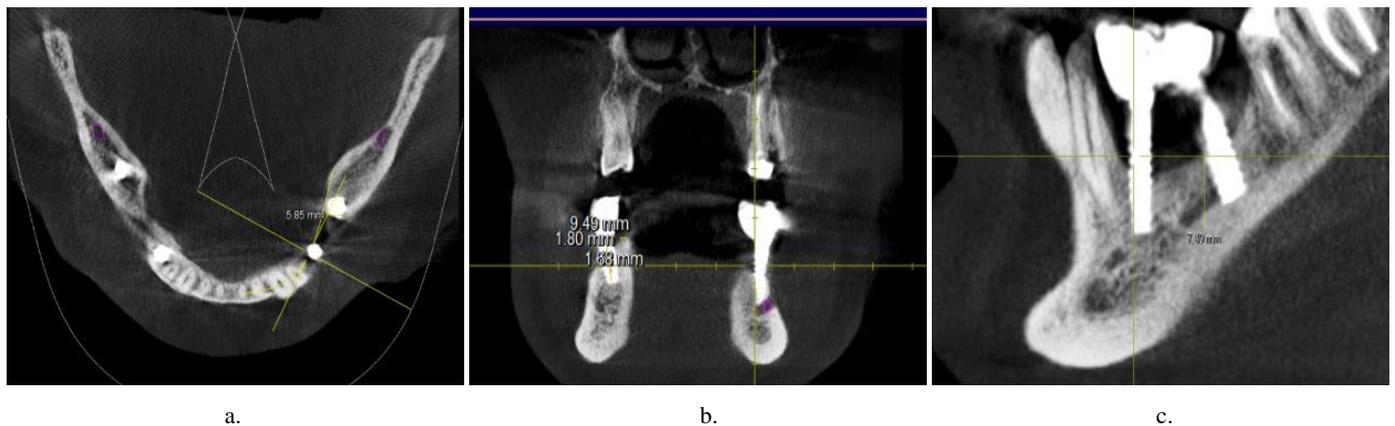
	N	%
Mesh exposure	10	71.42%
<b>Area of Exposure</b>		
Lingual	2	14.28 %
Buccal	2	14.28 %
Occlusal	6	42.85%



**Fig 1:** Pre-operative CBCT showing narrow ridge



**Fig 2:** Immediate post-operative CBCTs: a) Bone width (in mm) b) Bone quality (in Gray Scale) c) Bone height (in mm)



**Fig 3:** 6-months post-operative CBCTs: a) Bone width (in mm) b) Bone quality (in Gray Scale) c) Bone height (in mm)

**Discussion**

The pneumatized sinus, inferior alveolar nerve, mental foramen, and lingual concavity are all anatomical limitations and essential structures that prohibit the placement of long dental implants in atrophic maxilla and mandible [13]. Traditional onlay/inlay grafts, interpositional sandwich osteotomies, directed bone regeneration with semipermeable membranes, piezoelectric stimulation, and alveolar distraction osteogenesis procedures have all been established to prevent these problems [14]. Since the graft materials can be retained in the sinus with ample blood supply from the alveolar bone and sinus membrane, the sinus lift procedure at the posterior maxilla is more predictable than other vertical augmentation procedures [15]. Extra augmentation procedures, on the other hand, often lift the cost, morbidity, and treatment time. Sinus membrane perforation was the most common surgical complication (prevalence ranged from 0 to 21.4 percent, with a mean of 3.8 percent), and sinus infection was the most common postoperative complication, according to a

systematic study of trans-alveolar sinus raise (prevalence varied between 0 and 2.5 percent, with a mean of 0.8 percent) [16]. Membrane perforation was found to be 19.5 percent (range 0–58.3 percent) and sinus infection was found to be 2.9 percent (range 0–7.4 percent) in patients who underwent a lateral approach. Hemorrhage, nasal bleeding, a blocked nose, and hematomas are also potential complications after surgery [15].

Due to mandibular bone atrophy, the inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) is more vulnerable to invasion during implant site preparation and placement. Dental implants were discovered to be the most common etiological risk factor for nerve injury (56.3%) [19].

Short implants are one of the treatment of choice among different alternative (basal, zygomatic and pterygoid implants) in such situations as it is less invasive and require less exposure. Nonetheless, the long-term feasibility of short dental implants has been a contentious issue. Papaspyridakos [20] in their study indicated that survival rates of short implants

( $\leq 6$  mm) ranged from 86.7% to 100%, whereas the survival rates for longer implants ( $>6$  mm) were 95% to 100% with a follow-up from 1 to 5 years. Short implants were found to have a lower implant survival rate than longer implants. The use of short implants has been challenged due to an unfavorable mechanical force distribution caused by a high crown-to-implant ratio and higher crestal bone strains surrounding short implants as compared to long implants, which has been potentially linked to crestal bone loss [21], Renouard [23] *et al.* recorded 0.44 0.52 mm bone resorption of 96 short implants after two years in 2005.

The one-stage approach, which involves using grafting material with or without membranes at the time of implant placement, reduces the overall treatment time [24]. Bone regeneration (GBR) utilizing this one-stage procedure around submerged implants has been successful both in humans and animals [25, 26]. It has been shown that the exposed implant threads are slowly covered with bone through regeneration. Cochran & Douglas (1993) [27] were the first to describe the possibility of regenerating bone around one-stage implants using a non-submerged approach.

In present study, we found a significant increase in the bucco-lingual width at implant site from pre-operative to immediate post-operative time interval ( $5.13 \pm 1.85$  mm), immediate post-operative to 6-months post-operative time interval ( $6.34 \pm 1.06$  mm) and from pre-operative to 6-months post-operative time interval ( $5.13 \pm 2.14$  mm). These results favors the horizontal augmentation that has occurred in this study.

Various authors have discussed the success criteria of dental implants on the basis of crestal bone loss. P. Paspaspyridakos *et al* in 2011 [20] examined most frequently used criteria to define treatment success in implant dentistry. It was reported that bone loss at 1st year  $< 1.5$  mm and annual bone loss  $< 0.2$  mm thereafter was considered to be most acceptable criteria for success of dental implants. In the present study, height of the alveolar crest was measured on the proximal sites of exposed implant threads. In this study, we found a decrease in the height of alveolar crest which was not significant when comparison was made between immediate post-operative and 6-months post-operative time interval both on the mesial ( $2.00 \pm 1.33$  mm) and distal aspect ( $2.93 \pm 2.12$  mm).

Four basic principles must be followed throughout the surgery and during the healing process for GBR procedures to be effective which are primary closure, angiogenesis, space maintenance, and stability of the wound, the so-called PASS principle [28]. Complications with any of these principles can result in premature membrane exposure that potentially compromises the regenerative process. Her *et al.* (2010) [29] conducted a study and found mesh exposure in 7 patients (26%) out of 27 augmented sites. In this study, despite the use of micropore titanium mesh, we have noticed mesh exposure in 10 patients (71.42%) among 14 patients. Out of 10, mesh exposure was seen on lingual aspect in 2 patient (14.28%), on buccal aspect in 2 patient (14.28%) and on occlusal aspect in 6 patients (42.85%) which was quite high which could be a possible explanation for detrimental influence on the amount of bone augmentation in this study.

## Conclusion

The present clinical study was conducted with a one-stage approach for alveolar ridge augmentation using titanium mesh with simultaneous implant placement in the compromised ridges. Despite the use of micropore titanium mesh along with PRF coverage over it we have found a higher rate of membrane exposure in the early healing phase period. This

could probably be the main reason behind the high amount of graft resorption that was observed in the present study. We were able to achieve a significant increase the bucco-lingual width of the alveolar crest but failed to achieve any optimal gain in alveolar crest height. Future studies investigating the impact of membrane exposure using one-stage approach in compromised ridges are needed.

## Abbreviations

GBR - Guided Bone Regeneration

PRF - Platelet Rich Fibrin

AB - Anorganic Bovine

ABB- Anorganic Bovine Bone

CBCT- Cone Beam Computed Tomography

IAN - Inferior Alveolar Nerve

PASS - Primary wound closure, Angiogenesis, Space maintenance, and Stability of the blood clot

SD - Standard Deviation

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