CASE STUDY #9
Mini-Implants as a Transition to Implant-Supported Teeth
Case Report on a 15-year-old Female
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One of the dilemmas facing us in dentistry, particularly in younger patients but not uniquely to younger patients, is the waiting period between bone augmentation and/or age maturation before implants can be placed permanently. We’ve dealt with this problem with either Maryland bridges, removable flippers or even bonding and acrylic teeth. Occasionally this is not an ideal situation, either because it is clinically difficult due to the occlusion or the patient’s demands lead us in a different direction.

Hence, a 15-year-old young lady who had high aesthetic needs and refused to wear a removable prosthesis from 15-17 years of age. For reasons between her dentist and herself, a Maryland bridge was not considered as an alternative.

As you can see on the scans, she had a need for augmentation of the ridge prior to implant placement because of the narrowness buccal lingually. On the scan as well as the preop photographs, you can clearly see the issues as they present.

Scan 1

Scan 2

PREOP PHOTOS:

Photo1 taken 10_12_11:

Photo3 taken 10_12_11:
It is not uncommon that there is a severe undercut facially where teeth are congenitally missing. This can occasionally be solved by the moving of the cuspid anteriorly and then back again which will augment the bone but this is not a commonly performed procedure. The other alternative is to augment the site and then place implants but in this case, the patient wanted instant teeth.

That being said, we elected to use mini-implants to provisionalize her while the augmentation took place.

**Please observe the following photo at the time of bone augmentation:**

Photo6 taken 10_12_11

![Photo6](image)

And this photo shows implant placement:

Photo4 taken 10_12_11

![Photo4](image)

**X-rays taken at Implant Placement:**

6-7 taken 8/1/2011  
10-11 taken 8/1/2011

![X-rays 1](image)  
![X-rays 2](image)

**X-rays at time of immediate temporization:**

6-7, 8/1/2011  
10-11, 8/1/2011

![X-rays 3](image)  
![X-rays 4](image)
X-rays & photos taken approximately one year later:

5-7taken9_24_12:  10-12taken9_24_12:

And here are postop scans taken recently:

We are now prepared to go place the permanent implants, remove the mini-implants, and place more adequately-sized fixtures for the long term.

Because of this staged approach, we’ve been able to develop enough soft and hard tissue to make this a viable, long-term aesthetic result.

It is not uncommon because of an absence of tissue, both in thickness and quantity, to provide the patient with the ideal result in terms of the thickness and the height of the tissue.

I’ll provide a follow-up when the final restoration is performed.