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**Implant-retained mandibular overdentures with immediate loading: clinical and histological study.**

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The aim of this study was a clinical and histological evaluation of immediately loaded implants used in mandibular overdentures.

Ten completely edentulous patients were selected with adequate bone in the mandibular intraforaminal area and a past medical history with no contraindications to implant therapy.

In each patient 4 osseointegrated implants 3.3 mm in diameter and a 11 mm long (Winsix Tm Ltd, London, UK) were inserted in 3.4, 3.3, 4.3, 4.4 sites.

Two implants were connected with an U-shaped gold bar, and were immediately loaded with mandibular overdentures. The other two implants, placed in 3.3 and 4.3 sites were left sleeping. After 6 months from the immediate loading, a new mandibular overdentures was made supported by all the 4 osseointegrated implants.

In two cases, the inadequate placement of 2 immediately loaded implants, did not allow to use them prosthodontically, making necessary their removal for the final rehabilitation. In the implants removed no mobility or soft tissue peri-implant inflammation were clinically detectable. No peri-implant radiolucency was present on the radiographs, and the reduction in crestal bone levels adjacent to the implants between baseline and 6 months wasn't significant.

The histologic examination of the 2 retrieved implants showed no inflammatory dense connective tissue in the central and coronal portion, while apical portion was surrounded by newly formed bone tissue. In this connective tissue there were many active osteoblasts with osteoid matrix.

Our clinical and histological results show that immediately loaded implants can be used with no untoward effects occurring such as the formation of a fibrous tissue at the interface or crestal bone resorption.