

INTRODUCTION

The major goals of implant treatment include successful osseointegration and esthetic restorative outcome within healthy peri-implant soft tissue. The emergence profile is essential in establishing ideal hard and soft tissues as it contours and shapen the soft tissue while it transitions from the dental implant to the crown or prosthetic tooth. Previously, the shell technique was used to recontour the ideal shape of the alveolar ridge, however, not much has been reported on its use in soft tissue reconstruction around dental implants.

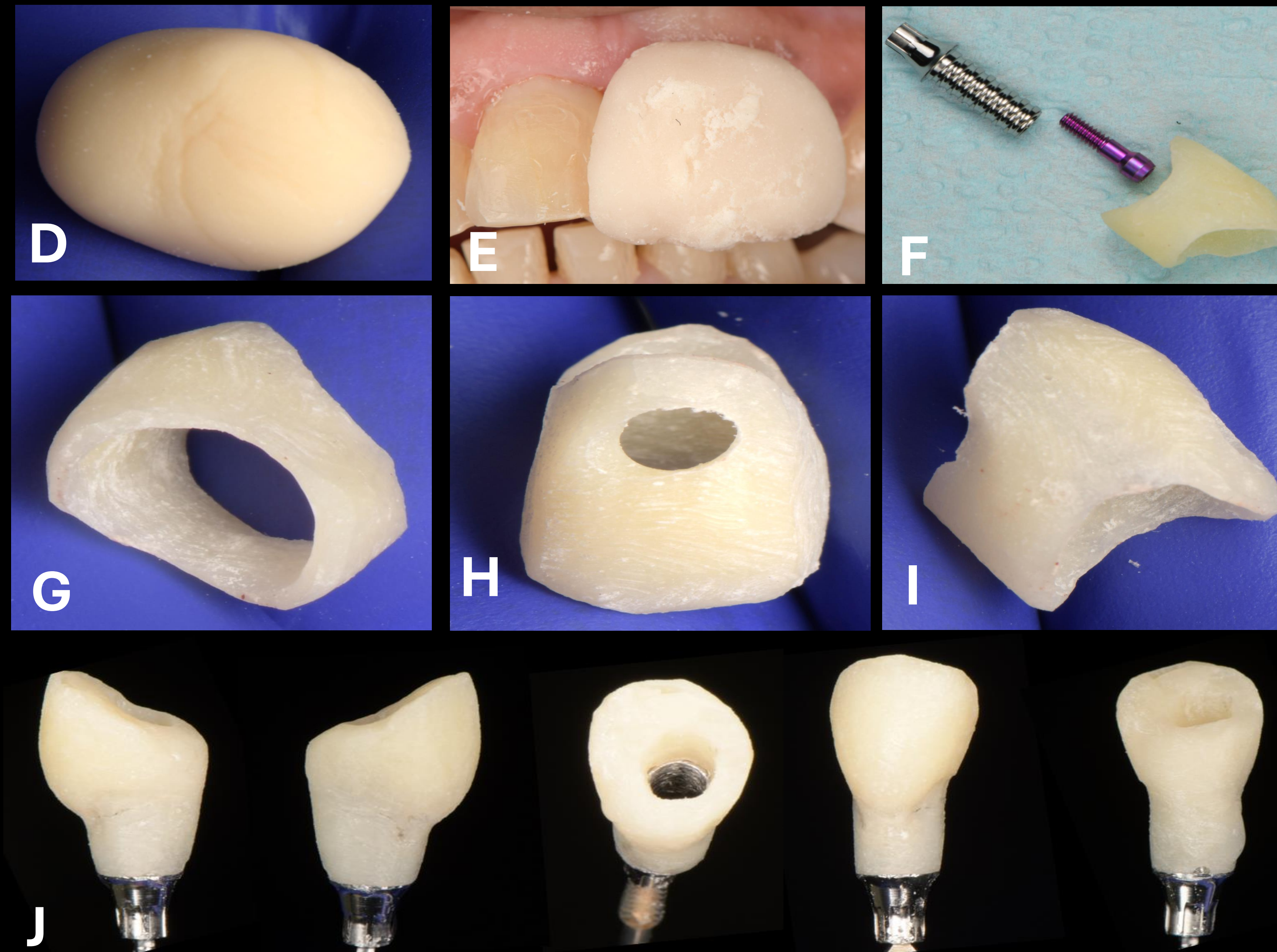
OBJECTIVE

This report shows soft tissue recontouring by the fabrication of a provisional implant restoration using the shell technique to produce an ideal emergence profile for implant restoration.

METHOD

Following a successful GBR on a failed implant site and implant placement (A-C), the shell technique involved a custom pliable mold created with a self-cure resin material molded around the teeth in the doughy stage to capture the impression of the implant site (D, E).

A crown shell was fabricated by trimming leaving a round access on the facial surface and tried on the implant fixture (G, H, I, and F). A provisional crown was then fabricated with the implant fixture in place. Resin material was added through the access to fill the space between the provisional crown base and gingiva (J).



DISCUSSION

The shell technique showed a sufficiently recontoured deficient soft tissue around the implant establishing a mechanical seal between the residual soft tissue socket and the surface of the implant soft-tissue provisional abutment (K-M). The technique is safe, relatively simple, and involves good dental anatomy knowledge while trimming resin shells extraorally. Other advantages include; for thin gingival biotypes requiring enhancement for better esthetics, reduces treatment time, and for preserving the soft-tissue architecture.

CONCLUSION

The utilization of the shell technique for soft tissue recontouring for an ideal emergence profile facilitates high esthetic and functional implant-supported restorations and is a key factor for successful a implant placement.

REFERENCES

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GBR- Guided Bone Regeneration

