

RESTORING A SINGLE MAXILLARY ANTERIOR TOOTH WITH AN IMPLANT THAT MIMICS THE ADJACENT TOOTH

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Matching a single maxillary central incisor is one of the most demanding procedures in restorative dentistry. Achieving a great match with a dental implant is even more challenging, but Dr. Watson accomplished this and created an exceptional restoration. The implant crown demonstrated a close esthetic and morphological match with the adjacent natural tooth. The gingival tissue had excellent health and symmetry. Working with a master dental ceramist, Dr. Watson achieved symmetry in shade, contour, surface texture, and anatomy so that the central incisors were mirror images of each other (Figs 1-4).

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No restoration is perfect, however, and examiners provided the following comments:

- **Criterion #71:** *Is the periodontal health optimal?* Mild inflammation was visible around implant tooth #9.
- **Criterion #72:** *Is the gingival architecture appropriate and in harmony with smile design?* There was a slight papilla loss on the mesial and distal of implant tooth #9.

Dr. Watson provided outstanding service to her patient, who was excited and happy with the final result. The entire process took a great deal of time and effort from both clinician and patient. The patient went through orthodontics, extraction of tooth #9, implant placement, temporary implant crown placement, and several visits to the laboratory technician. All the hard work paid off, resulting in the creation of an excellent final restoration.



Figure 1: Retracted frontal view (1:2) showing discolored and uneven teeth prior to orthodontics.



Figure 2: Retracted frontal view (1:2); braces were used to align the central incisors and achieve the correct bite.

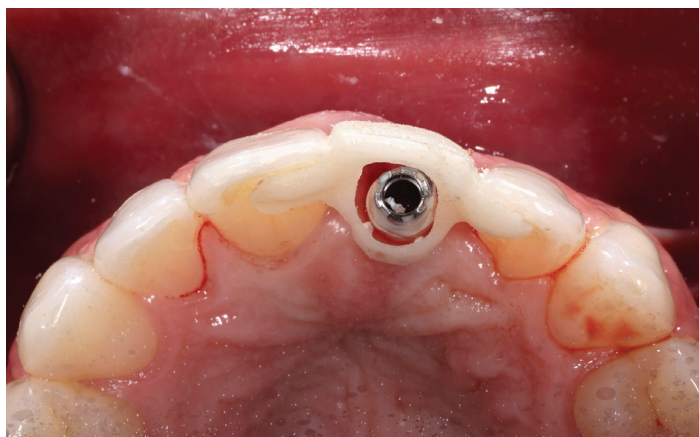


Figure 3: A custom screw-retained implant provisional crown was created from a shell with seating wings for proper orientation.



Figure 4: Postoperative view (1:1) of the final restoration showing the symmetry between #8 and #9.

References

1. Chan D. Emulating nature with dental implants. *J Cosmetic Dent.* 2012 Winter;27(4):24-32.
2. American Academy of Dentistry (AACD). A guide to Accreditation criteria: contemporary concepts in smile design. Madison (WI): AACD; 2014. **jCD**



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