World Journal of Clinical Cases

World J Clin Cases 2020 December 26; 8(24): 6213-6545





Contents

Semimonthly Volume 8 Number 24 December 26, 2020

MINIREVIEWS

6213 Role of gut microbiome in regulating the effectiveness of metformin in reducing colorectal cancer in type 2 diabetes

Huang QY, Yao F, Zhou CR, Huang XY, Wang Q, Long H, Wu QM

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Retrospective Cohort Study

6229 Impact factors of lymph node retrieval on survival in locally advanced rectal cancer with neoadjuvant

Mei SW, Liu Z, Wang Z, Pei W, Wei FZ, Chen JN, Wang ZJ, Shen HY, Li J, Zhao FQ, Wang XS, Liu Q

Retrospective Study

- Three-year follow-up of Coats disease treated with conbercept and 532-nm laser photocoagulation 6243 Jiang L, Qin B, Luo XL, Cao H, Deng TM, Yang MM, Meng T, Yang HQ
- 6252 Virus load and virus shedding of SARS-CoV-2 and their impact on patient outcomes Chen PF, Yu XX, Liu YP, Ren D, Shen M, Huang BS, Gao JL, Huang ZY, Wu M, Wang WY, Chen L, Shi X, Wang ZQ, Liu YX, Liu L, Liu Y
- 6264 Risk factors for de novo hepatitis B during solid cancer treatment

Sugimoto R, Furukawa M, Senju T, Aratake Y, Shimokawa M, Tanaka Y, Inada H, Noguchi T, Lee L, Miki M, Maruyama Y, Hashimoto R, Hisano T

6274 Cause analysis and reoperation effect of failure and recurrence after epiblepharon correction in children Wang Y, Zhang Y, Tian N

Clinical Trials Study

6282 Effects of different acupuncture methods combined with routine rehabilitation on gait of stroke patients Lou YT, Yang JJ, Ma YF, Zhen XC

Observational Study

- 6296 Application of endoscopic submucosal dissection in duodenal space-occupying lesions Li XY, Ji KY, Qu YH, Zheng JJ, Guo YJ, Zhang CP, Zhang KP
- 6306 Early renal injury indicators can help evaluate renal injury in patients with chronic hepatitis B with longterm nucleos(t)ide therapy

Ji TT, Tan N, Lu HY, Xu XY, Yu YY

Semimonthly Volume 8 Number 24 December 26, 2020

Prospective Study

6315 Neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy plus surgery in the treatment of potentially resectable thoracic esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

Yan MH, Hou XB, Cai BN, Qu BL, Dai XK, Liu F

CASE REPORT

6322 Uterine rupture in patients with a history of multiple curettages: Two case reports

Deng MF, Zhang XD, Zhang QF, Liu J

6330 Pleural effusion and ascites in extrarenal lymphangiectasia caused by post-biopsy hematoma: A case

Lin QZ, Wang HE, Wei D, Bao YF, Li H, Wang T

6337 Eighty-year-old man with rare chronic neutrophilic leukemia caused by CSF3R T618I mutation: A case report and review of literature

Li YP, Chen N, Ye XM, Xia YS

6346 Sigmoid colon duplication with ectopic immature renal tissue in an adult: A case report

Namgung H

6353 Paraplegia from spinal intramedullary tuberculosis: A case report

Qu LM, Wu D, Guo L, Yu JL

6358 Confocal laser endomicroscopy distinguishing benign and malignant gallbladder polyps during choledochoscopic gallbladder-preserving polypectomy: A case report

Tang BF, Dang T, Wang QH, Chang ZH, Han WJ

6364 Sclerosing stromal tumor of the ovary with masculinization, Meig's syndrome and CA125 elevation in an adolescent girl: A case report

Chen Q, Chen YH, Tang HY, Shen YM, Tan X

6373 Primary pulmonary malignant melanoma diagnosed with percutaneous biopsy tissue: A case report

Xi JM, Wen H, Yan XB, Huang J

6380 SRY-negative 45,X/46,XY adult male with complete masculinization and infertility: A case report and review of literature

Wu YH, Sun KN, Bao H, Chen YJ

6389 Refractory case of ulcerative colitis with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura successfully treated by Janus kinase inhibitor tofacitinib: A case report

Komeda Y, Sakurai T, Sakai K, Morita Y, Hashimoto A, Nagai T, Hagiwara S, Matsumura I, Nishio K, Kudo M

6396 Immunotherapies application in active stage of systemic lupus erythematosus in pregnancy: A case report and review of literature

Xiong ZH, Cao XS, Guan HL, Zheng HL

World Journal of Clinical Cases

Contents

Semimonthly Volume 8 Number 24 December 26, 2020

6408 Minimally invasive maxillary sinus augmentation with simultaneous implantation on an elderly patient: A case report

Yang S, Yu W, Zhang J, Zhou Z, Meng F, Wang J, Shi R, Zhou YM, Zhao J

6418 Congenital nephrogenic diabetes insipidus due to the mutation in AVPR2 (c.541C>T) in a neonate: A case

Lin FT, Li J, Xu BL, Yang XX, Wang F

6425 Primary gastric melanoma in a young woman: A case report

Long GJ, Ou WT, Lin L, Zhou CJ

6432 Extreme venous letting and cupping resulting in life-threatening anemia and acute myocardial infarction: A case report

Jang AY, Suh SY

6437 Novel conservative treatment for peritoneal dialysis-related hydrothorax: Two case reports

Dai BB, Lin BD, Yang LY, Wan JX, Pan YB

6444 Clinical characteristics of pulmonary cryptococcosis coexisting with lung adenocarcinoma: Three case reports

Zheng GX, Tang HJ, Huang ZP, Pan HL, Wei HY, Bai J

6450 Fracture of the scapular neck combined with rotator cuff tear: A case report

Chen L, Liu CL, Wu P

6456 Synchronous colonic mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma found after surgery for adenocarcinoma: A case report and review of literature

Li JJ, Chen BC, Dong J, Chen Y, Chen YW

6465 Novel mutation in the ASXL3 gene in a Chinese boy with microcephaly and speech impairment: A case report

Li JR, Huang Z, Lu Y, Ji QY, Jiang MY, Yang F

6473 Recurrent thrombosis in the lower extremities after thrombectomy in a patient with polycythemia vera: A case report

Jiang BP, Cheng GB, Hu Q, Wu JW, Li XY, Liao S, Wu SY, Lu W

6480 Status epilepticus as an initial manifestation of hepatic encephalopathy: A case report

Cui B, Wei L, Sun LY, Qu W, Zeng ZG, Liu Y, Zhu ZJ

Delayed diagnosis of prosopagnosia following a hemorrhagic stroke in an elderly man: A case report 6487

Yuan Y, Huang F, Gao ZH, Cai WC, Xiao JX, Yang YE, Zhu PL

6499 Oral myiasis after cerebral infarction in an elderly male patient from southern China: A case report

Zhang TZ, Jiang Y, Luo XT, Ling R, Wang JW

6504 Rare case of drain-site hernia after laparoscopic surgery and a novel strategy of prevention: A case report

Ш

Gao X, Chen Q, Wang C, Yu YY, Yang L, Zhou ZG

World Journal of Clinical Cases

Contents

Semimonthly Volume 8 Number 24 December 26, 2020

- 6511 Extracorporeal shock wave therapy treatment of painful hematoma in the calf: A case report Jung JW, Kim HS, Yang JH, Lee KH, Park SB
- 6517 Takotsubo cardiomyopathy associated with bronchoscopic operation: A case report Wu BF, Shi JR, Zheng LR
- 6524 Idiopathic adulthood ductopenia with elevated transaminase only: A case report Zhang XC, Wang D, Li X, Hu YL, Wang C
- 6529 Successful endovascular treatment with long-term antibiotic therapy for infectious pseudoaneurysm due to Klebsiella pneumoniae: A case report

Wang TH, Zhao JC, Huang B, Wang JR, Yuan D

6537 Primary duodenal tuberculosis misdiagnosed as tumor by imaging examination: A case report Zhang Y, Shi XJ, Zhang XC, Zhao XJ, Li JX, Wang LH, Xie CE, Liu YY, Wang YL

ΙX

ABOUT COVER

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CASE REPORT

Minimally invasive maxillary sinus augmentation with simultaneous implantation on an elderly patient: A case report

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Abstract

In this case study, a minimally invasive transalveolar approach using platelet-rich fibrin and bone substitute with simultaneous implantation was carried out in an elderly patient. We analyzed the cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) findings to evaluate bone regeneration.

CASE SUMMARY

A 65-year-old female with no contraindications for dental implants and loss of maxillary bilateral molars is described. Examination by CBCT showed the available vertical bone height in the bilateral posterior maxilla was 0.5-6.8 mm in the left and 2.8-6.5 mm in the right. The patient underwent a transalveolar approach using platelet-rich fibrin and bone substitute with simulataneous placement of an implant 10 mm in length. Six months post-surgery, the implant showed excellent osseointegration with the bone graft. Thereafter, full-ceramic crowns were fitted. Follow-up at 2 years demonstrated satisfactory prognosis.

CONCLUSION

Platelet-rich fibrin and bone substitute can be used to augment the maxillary sinus with a vertical bone height less than 4 mm.

Key Words: Maxillary sinus augmentation; Bone substitute; Bone regeneration; Plateletrich fibrin; Internal sinus floor elevation; Case report

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Core Tip: Insufficient height of residual bone in the posterior maxilla is commonly encountered after tooth loss in elderly people. When the vertical bone height is less than 5 mm, the lateral antrostomy approach is recommended. In this case, cone-beam computed tomography examination showed that the available vertical bone height in the bilateral posterior maxilla was 0.5-6.8 mm in the left and 2.8-6.5 mm in the right. We chose the crest approach with platelet-rich fibrin and bovine bone graft material and obtained a good outcome. This case demonstrates that minimally invasive implantation and repair in elderly patients can be achieved, with reduced surgical trauma, postoperative pain, swelling, surgical costs and significantly shortened the course of implantation and repair. Therefore, in elderly patients, based on the premise of strict mastery of surgical indications and operating skills, this minimally invasive method with simultaneous implantation in the maxillary sinus can be considered.

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INTRODUCTION

Insufficient height of the residual bone in the posterior maxilla is commonly encountered after tooth loss in elderly people. Alveolar bone resorption and increased pneumatization of the maxillary sinus results in a decrease in vertical bone height (VBH) of the posterior alveolus in the edentulous areas. Maxillary sinus augmentation is an effective way of resolving inadequate bone height in the posterior region of the maxilla. There are two main approaches to sinus augmentation in preparation for implant placement: Transalveolar and lateral antrostomy^[1]. Rosen and colleagues^[2] found that the implant survival rate was 85.7% when the VBH was 4 mm or less in the posterior region of the maxilla, which improved to 96% in locations with more than 4 mm of initial bone height. When the residual bone height is less than 5 mm, the lateral antrostomy approach is recommended[3]. However, with continuous developments in implant technology, the indications for the transalveolar approach are expanding, and it is increasingly favored by oral surgeons and patients due to its advantages of simple operation, less trauma, mild postoperative response, and low cost.

CASE PRESENTATION

Chief complaints

A 65-year-old female complained about the loss of maxillary bilateral molars which were extracted 6 mo previously.

History of present illness

Maxillary bilateral molars were extracted 6 mo previously.

History of past illness

The patient had good general health with a history of bruxism.

Physical examination

Oral examination shows that the attached gingiva was normal and the alveolar crest was less plump. There was no obvious elongation of the jaw teeth and prosthesis. #25 used to be an abutment tooth with vital pulp, which was ready for restoration. The rest of her teeth were heavily worn and she had a tight bite. Sufficient space was available for crown implants with an anatomical design (Figure 1B).

Laboratory examinations

No abnormalities were observed following laboratory examinations.



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Imaging examinations

Examination by cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT, Figure 1A) showed that the available VBH was 0.5-6.8 mm in the left and 2.8-6.5 mm in the right.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS

The final diagnosis was Kennedy II dentition defect with a VBH less than 4 mm.

TREATMENT

According to the patient's condition, the treatment plan was performed using the transalveolar approach to the bilateral maxillary posterior area with four Nobel Active implants. The second stage surgery and crown repair were performed 6 mo later. Before surgery, two blood samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min without any anticoagulant to establish platelet-rich fibrin (PRF, Figure 2E). After coagulation, each PRF clot was prepared in membrane form (Figure 2E). In addition, 0.12% chlorhexidine mouthwash was used to rinse the mouth for 3 min/rinse which was repeated 3 times. Local infiltration of Articaine with adrenaline 1:100000 was administered to induce anesthesia. A release incision was performed to make a mucoperiosteum flap in the alveolar crest, then a pilot drill was used to prepare the implant socket leaving an approximately 1 mm gap from the maxillary sinus floor boundary (Figure 2A and B). Next, using a rounded and blunted osteotome to elevate the maxillary sinus membrane, the cortical bone of the sinus floor was up-fractured (Figure 2C and D). After that, the patient's nose was pinched to check the integrity of the maxillary sinus. The implant, PRF and bone substitutes were simultaneously implanted (Figure 2H-J). The implants were placed (4.3 mm × 10 mm, Nobel Active, Sweden) with a torque of 35 N cm, overlapped by a cover screw (Figure 2K and 2L). Postoperative CBCT revealed that the implants were located in the appropriate position (Figure 3).

Antibiotics, including cephalosporin and ornidazole, were administered for 3 d postoperatively.

OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

Six months later, direct contact between the bone and implant interface was observed on CBCT images (Figure 4). The cover screws were replaced with healing abutments (Figure 5). Two weeks later, a zirconia ceramic crown was constructed (Figure 6). The whole permanent abutments added torque force of 35 N cm. At 1 mo after loading, the CBCT scan showed that the gained bone height was stable (Figure 7). The patient was followed-up for 30 mo after the first stage of surgery, with satisfactory stability, and without gingival recession (Figure 8).

DISCUSSION

Tasoulis *et al*^[4] reviewed the literature and found that the success rate of the lateral antrostomy approach was 86%-100% while that of the transalveolar approach was 92.8%-97%. There was no significant difference in the long-term clinical effect between the two approaches. The transalveolar approach is more conservative and less invasive than the lateral approach^[5]. Adequate VBH is a critical factor to avoid complications such as sinus membrane perforation. However, the VBH did not reduce the success rate of the implants and associated prostheses. Gonzalez et al^[6] carried out the crestal approach with simultaneous implantation with VBH of 2-4 mm on the posterior maxillary alveolar. In this case, the elderly patient had bone rarefaction in the maxilla, and was more suitable for lateral antrostomy, but considering the patient's poor tolerance, lateral antrostomy takes longer and is more traumatic, the postoperative trauma would be greater, and recovery would be slower. Therefore, following a discussion with the patient and informed consent for treatment, we chose the crest approach. To ensure the success rate, bone substitutes, and PRF were combined to induce bone regeneration.

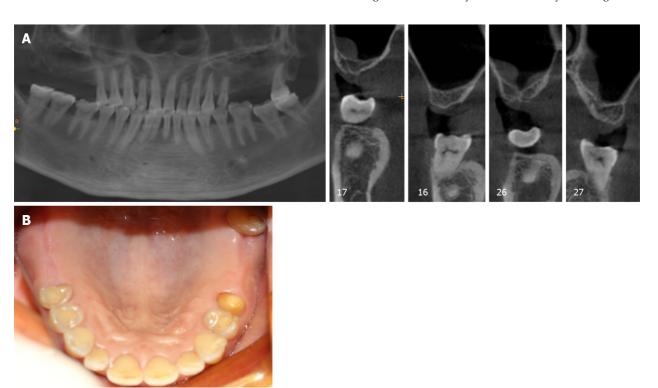


Figure 1 Preoperative cone-beam computed tomography and intraoral photograph. A: Preoperative cone-beam computed tomography; B: Intraoral photograph.

The combination of PRF and bovine bone graft material may be an alternative treatment option to the routinely used combination of bovine bone graft material and collagen membrane. Rodriguez et al^[7] believe that the use of platelet-rich plasma in combination with bovine bone is effective for maxillary sinus augmentation with simultaneous insertion of endosseous dental implants in severely resorbed posterior maxillae. In 2001, Choukroun et al^[8] developed a simpler method to concentrate platelets and fibrin without blood treatment instead of platelet-rich plasma which is more expensive and difficult to obtain. PRF belongs to the second generation of platelet concentrates, with simplified processing and without biochemical blood handling which contains a strong fibrin matrix and releases cytokines slowly, such as transforming growth factor-beta, vascular endothelial growth factor, and plateletderived growth factor^[9]. Also, fibrin is applied as a delivery system for growth factors in tissue engineering^[10]. Moreover, fibrin has a significant effect on collagen synthesis in osteoblast-like cells. Thus, both cytokines and the fibrin matrix in PRF are synergistic in terms of cell migration and rapid vascularization, providing a favorable environment for the promotion of proliferation and differentiation of osteoblasts[11]. On the one hand, PRF as a sole filling material could promote natural bone regeneration when implants are placed simultaneously[12]. On the other hand, due to its good intrinsic adherence to the Schneiderian membrane, it is not only used to cover the perforation but is also used preventively to reduce the risk of perforation during the transalveolar approach[13].

Choukroun et al^[14] evaluated the effectiveness of freeze-dried bone allograft (FDBA), and an FDBA and PRF mixture in sinus augmentation surgery, and found that the addition of PRF to FDBA accelerated graft maturation and decreased the healing period before implant placement[15,16]. Zhang et al[16] found that compared with PRF mixed with FDBA, the absence of precursor cells was the reason for the lack of effect of PRF mixed with bio-oss on bone formation. Tatullo et al[17] demonstrated that the combination of PRF and bovine bone graft material can promote the early stability of implants, and revealed that marked neoangiogenesis acted as good trophic support for the newly-formed bone tissue.

CONCLUSION

In this case, we placed PRF and bovine bone graft material in the floor of the maxillary

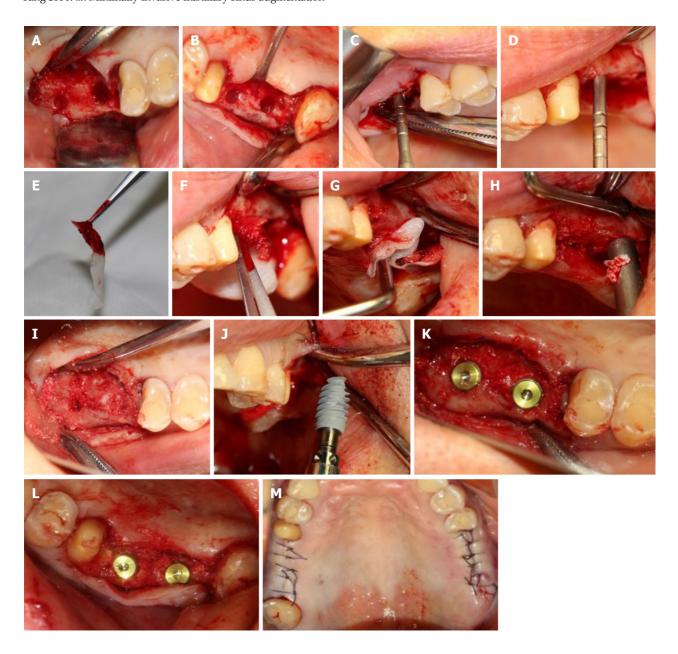


Figure 2 First-stage surgery. A and B: Nest preparation on the right; C and D: Bilateral internal maxillary sinus floor elevation; E: Platelet-rich fibrin (PRF) clots were compressed between sterile dry gauze; F and G: Established PRF membranes were placed in the primary elevated sinus floor; H and I: Implantation of the bovine bone graft material; J: Implant (4.3 mm × 10 mm, Nobel Active, Sweden) was implanted with a torque of 35 N·cm; K and L: Placement of a suitable cover screw; M: Stitches in the wound.

sinus using the crest approach, and performed the restoration 6 mo later with the torque force at 35 N cm. This method promotes early bone healing, and guarantees initial stability of the implant. The results in this case show that minimally invasive implantation and repair in elderly patients can be achieved, with reduced surgical trauma, postoperative pain, swelling, surgical costs and a significantly shorter implantation and repair time. Therefore, in elderly patients, based on the premise of strict mastery of surgical indications and operating skills, this minimally invasive method of simultaneous implantation in the maxillary sinus can be considered.

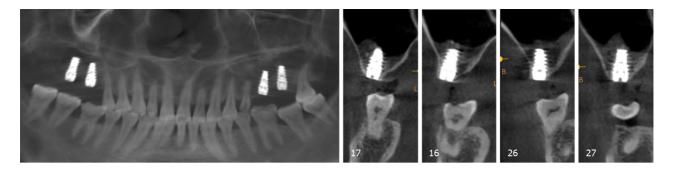
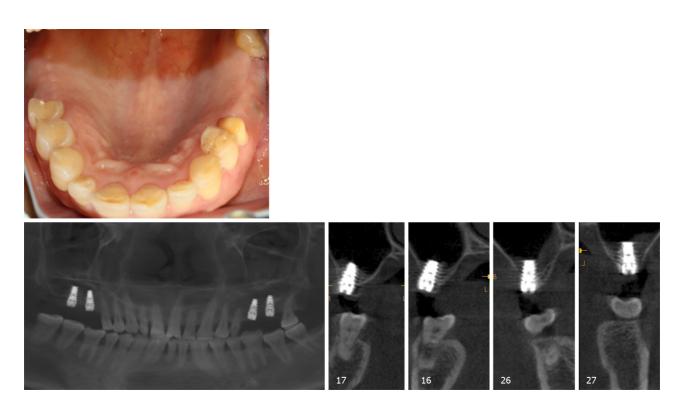


Figure 3 Cone-beam computed tomography after the first-stage surgery.



6413

Figure 4 Six months after the first surgery.



Figure 5 Six months later, the second-stage surgery was performed and the cover screw was replaced with the healing cap.

6414



Figure 6 Zirconia ceramic crowns were constructed. A-D: A painless 35 N·cm torque was added to put the abutment in place; E and F: Zirconium-ceramic crowns; G and H: Buccal view of the final prosthesis in place; I-K: Occlusal view of the final prosthesis in place.

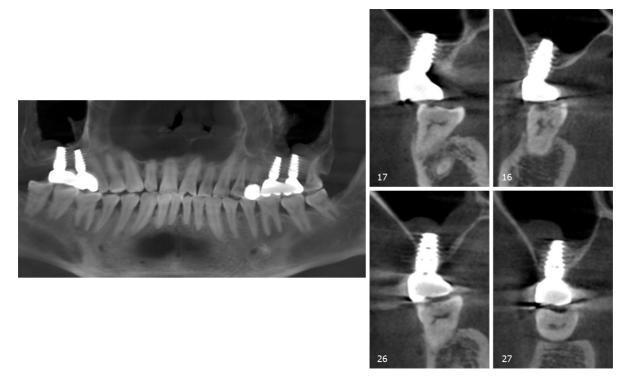


Figure 7 One month after permanent restoration.

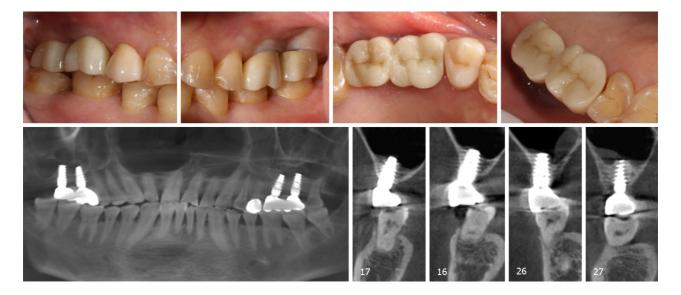


Figure 8 Patient was followed-up for 30 mo after the first stage surgery.

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