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Rangel Lidani

**A INFLUÊNCIA DO FENÓTIPO GENGIVAL NOS PARÂMETROS DE SAÚDE
PERI-IMPLANTAR EM EDÊNTULOS TOTAIS REABILITADOS COM
OVERDENTURES MANDIBULARES – UM ESTUDO CLÍNICO PROSPECTIVO**

Florianópolis
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Orientador: Prof. Dr. Luis André Mendonça Mezzomo.

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O presente trabalho em nível de Mestrado foi avaliado e aprovado, em 6 de dezembro de 2022, pela banca examinadora composta pelos seguintes membros:

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Florianópolis, 2022.

Dedico este trabalho aos meus pais,
Jussara e Valdomiro Lidani.

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RESUMO

Objetivo: Avaliar o papel do fenótipo gengival nos parâmetros de saúde peri-implantar em torno de implantes de nível de tecido mole em pacientes tratados com *overdentures* mandibulares. **Materiais e Métodos:** Vinte e sete pacientes edêntulos receberam 2 ou 4 implantes na mandíbula para reter uma *overdenture*. O fenótipo gengival (largura e espessura da mucosa queratinizada [KG]) foi avaliado antes da cirurgia. Os dados foram correlacionados com o Índice de Placa [PS], Sangramento à Sondagem [BoP], Profundidade de Sondagem [PD] e Margem da Mucosa Peri-Implantar [ML] no início e 4 anos após o carregamento, e posteriormente estratificados de acordo com a região da mandíbula (anterior/posterior). O coeficiente de correlação de Spearman e os testes de Shapiro Wilk, Wilcoxon, Levene e U de Mann-Whitney foram utilizados para análise estatística ($p < 0,05$). **Resultados:** Os dados de 15 pacientes ($n = 46$ implantes) foram avaliados no seguimento de 4 anos. As médias gerais da largura vestibulo-lingual do KG e da espessura do tecido mole foram $5,26 \pm 1,95$ mm e $2,21 \pm 1,05$ mm, respectivamente. A prevalência geral de mucosite peri-implantar variou de 80,5% a 90,4% no início e 4 anos, respectivamente. Independentemente da região do implante, o fenótipo gengival mostrou uma correlação significativa com o ML lingual na linha de base, enquanto na região posterior foi observada uma correlação significativa entre a espessura do tecido mole com o ML vestibular e PD aos 4 anos ($p = 0,011$). Não houve correlação significativa para nenhum outro parâmetro peri-implante em até 4 anos de acompanhamento na avaliação geral ($n = 46$). **Conclusão:** No geral, o fenótipo gengival não influenciou os parâmetros de saúde peri-implantar a médio prazo que justificaria a escassez ou ausência de KG como fator de risco para mucosite ao redor de implantes em nível de tecido mole.

Palavras-chave: implante dentário; arcada edêntula; fenótipo; sangramento gengival exploratório; saúde peri-implantar.

ABSTRACT

Aim: To evaluate the role of the gingival phenotype on peri-implant health parameters around soft tissue-level implants in patients treated with mandibular overdentures.

Materials and Methods: Twenty-seven edentulous patients received 2 or 4 implants in the mandible to retain an overdenture. Gingival phenotype (width and thickness of keratinized mucosa [KG]) was assessed before surgery. Data were correlated with Plaque Index [PS], Bleeding on Probing [BoP], Probing Depth [PD] and Peri-Implant Mucosal Margin [ML] at baseline and 4 years after loading, and later stratified according to the region of the mandible (anterior/posterior). Spearman's correlation coefficient and Shapiro Wilk, Wilcoxon, Levene and Mann-Whitney U tests were used for statistical analysis ($p < 0.05$). **Results:** Data from 15 patients ($n = 46$ implants) were assessed at the 4-years follow-up. The overall means of bucco-lingual width of KG and of the soft tissue thickness were 5.26 ± 1.95 mm and 2.21 ± 1.05 mm, respectively. Overall prevalence of peri-implant mucositis ranged from 80.5% to 90.4% at baseline and 4-years, respectively. Regardless of the implant region, gingival phenotype showed a significant correlation with the lingual ML at baseline, whereas in the posterior region a significant correlation was observed between the soft tissue thickness with the buccal ML and PD at 4 years ($p = 0.011$). There was no significant correlation for any other peri-implant parameter at up to 4 years of follow-up in the overall assessment ($n = 46$). **Conclusion:** Overall, the gingival phenotype did not influence the mid-term peri-implant health parameters that would justify the scarcity or absence of KG as a risk factor for mucositis around soft tissue level implants.

Keywords: dental implants; edentulous jaw; phenotype; gingival bleeding on probing; peri-implant tissues.

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

BoP	(<i>Bleeding on Probing</i> , Sangramento à Sondagem)
FG	Fenótipo Gengival
GR	(<i>Gingival Recession</i> , Recessão Gengival)
IC	Intervalo de Confiança
MC	Mucosa Ceratinizada
ML	(<i>Margin Level</i> , Nível da Margem da Mucosa Peri-implantar)
mm	milímetro
PD	(<i>Pocket Depth</i> , Profundidade de Sondagem)
PI	(<i>Plaque Index</i> , Índice de Placa Visível)
TC	Tecido Ceratinizado
TL	(<i>Tissue-Level</i> , Implantes a Nível de Tecido Mole)

Do artigo em inglês:

AASM	<i>American Academy of Sleep Medicine</i>
BL	<i>Bone-Level</i>
BoP	<i>Bleeding on Probing</i>
CCDs	<i>Conventional Complete Dentures</i>
CF	<i>Consent Form</i>
EAO	<i>European Association for Osseointegration</i>
FDI	<i>International Dental Federation</i>
KG	<i>Keratinized Gingiva</i>
ML	<i>Peri-Implant Mucosal Margin Level</i>
mm	<i>millimeter</i>
N	<i>Newton</i>
PD	<i>Probing Depth</i>
PS	<i>Plaque Score</i>
rho	<i>Spearman`s Correlation Coefficient</i>
SDs	<i>Standard Deviations</i>
TL	<i>Tissue-Level</i>

LISTA DE SÍMBOLOS

®	Marga registrada
±	Mais ou menos
≤	Menor ou igual à
>	Maior que
=	Igual
<	Menor que
∅	Diâmetro
%	Por cento

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1 INTRODUÇÃO

O processo de cicatrização dos tecidos moles após a colocação do implante dá origem à mucosa peri-implantar, estabelecida pela formação de mucosa mastigatória (MC) e/ou de revestimento (Ten Cate, 1998; Araújo e Lindhe, 2018). O estado de saúde desta mucosa é crucial para o sucesso do tratamento com implantes, o qual é dependente de fatores relacionados ao paciente (hábitos de higiene, tabagismo, doenças sistêmicas, história prévia de periodontite, sistema imunológico, etc.), ao implante (macro e microgeometria, conexão protética, posição, etc.) e ao sítio do implante (fenótipo tecidual) (Puisys e Linkevicius, 2015; Güven et al., 2020).

As doenças peri-implantares ocorrem através do desequilíbrio entre o desafio bacteriano e a resposta imunológica do paciente, gerando processos inflamatórios a nível de tecido mole (mucosite peri-implantar) ou também ao osso de suporte (periimplantite) (Araújo e Lindhe, 2018). O 9º Workshop Europeu de Periodontologia descreveu semelhanças da etiologia e patogenezidade desse processo com aquele observado na gengivite e periodontite (Jepsen et al., 2015). Por isso, considera-se que o histórico de perda dentária pela periodontite torna o indivíduo suscetível, também, às doenças peri-implantares (Karoussis et al., 2003; Mayfield e Lang (2010; Busenlechner et al., 2014). Além disso, processos inflamatórios dos tecidos peri-implantares são rotineiramente relacionados à infecção bacteriana crônica que se estabelece no *microgap* resultante da conexão implante-pilar protético (Wu et al., 2020; Mortazavi et al., 2021). Implantes ao nível do tecido ósseo, ou abaixo dele, apresentam esta conexão rente ao osso marginal, onde normalmente é relatado perda óssea (Cochran et al., 2009; Tesmer et al., 2009; Caetano et al., 2019). Por isso, implantes ao nível de tecido mole, ou implantes de corpo único, foram desenvolvidos com uma projeção da sua plataforma que se estende até a superfície da mucosa, afastando verticalmente o *microgap* da crista óssea (Lauritano et al., 2020). Seu impacto positivo nos parâmetros clínicos de saúde peri-implantar são notáveis, mas ainda há controvérsias na literatura sobre a estabilidade óssea marginal (Flores et al., 2018; Caetano et al., 2019; Garaicoa-Pazmino et al., 2021).

A presença de mucosa mastigatória é relacionada ao sucesso da terapia com implantes devido à sua forte adesão ao periósteo e seu revestimento por um epitélio queratinizado que garantem resistência e elevado limiar de sensibilidade ao tecido (Ten Cate, 1998). Estudos sugerem que ela favorece a higienização e diminui o

acúmulo de placa – principal fator etiológico da mucosite peri-implantar, condição predisponente da periimplantite (Ladwein et al., 2015; Souza et al., 2016). A literatura que defende a sua importância diverge sobre o que poderia ser considerado adequado ou suficiente em termos de quantidade para o sucesso do implante, mas sugere, em pacientes parcialmente desdentados, uma faixa mínima com 2mm de largura em todas as suas faces para o controle eficiente do acúmulo de placa e alcance de menores índices de inflamação e recessão dos tecidos moles (Schrott et al, 2009; Zigdon e Machtei, 2008; Akcali et al., 2017; Perussolo et al., 2018). Por isso, tem sido sugerida em áreas planejadas para a colocação de implantes e onde não há quantidade suficiente de tecido queratinizado, a modificação cirúrgica prévia ou simultânea do fenótipo gengival, por meio de procedimentos regenerativos (Meffert et al, 1992; Rocuzzo et al., 2016; Thoma et al., 2018; De Bruyckere et al., 2020).

Em paralelo, alguns estudos demonstram não haver correlação entre a presença da MC com os parâmetros clínicos de saúde peri-implantar, e que implantes podem ter altas taxas de sobrevida e sucesso mesmo na ausência de mucosa mastigatória (Adell et al., 1990; 1986; Sicilia e Botticell, 2012; Garaicoa-Pazmino et al., 2021; Ravidà et al., 2022). O pensamento atual sugere que a presença da MC se limita à simplificação dos procedimentos de higiene bucal, o que poderia resultar em menores índices de inflamação (Gobbato et al., 2013). Uma revisão sistemática recente sugere que onde há uma higiene adequada, a presença de MC pode não ser imprescindível, e que a literatura atual é incapaz de definir a sua ausência como fator de risco para o implante (Ravidà et al., 2022).

A literatura é escassa de estudos que avaliem relações causais da mucosite e periimplantite (Thoma et al., 2018) em pacientes desdentados totais. Isso explica o pouco conhecimento sobre a influência que o fenótipo gengival em áreas edêntulas exerce sobre os futuros parâmetros clínicos de saúde dos tecidos moles peri-implantares. A hipótese nula a ser testada neste trabalho é a de que não há diferença nos parâmetros clínicos de saúde peri-implantar entre regiões edêntulas com muito ou pouca MC disponível previamente à instalação do implante. Por isso, o objetivo deste trabalho foi avaliar a influência do fenótipo gengival na saúde peri-implantar de implantes de nível de tecido mole retendo próteses removíveis em desdentados totais mandibulares.

2 REVISÃO DA LITERATURA

2.1. EDENTULISMO

A diminuição da prevalência de edentulismo nas últimas décadas é atribuída, entre outros fatores, ao caráter preventivo da Odontologia Moderna, avanços na Odontologia Restauradora e adoção de políticas públicas de saúde bucal (EMAMI et al., 2013). Contudo, tendências demográficas, como o aumento do tamanho e expectativa de vida da população, não devem ser negligenciadas (TURKYLMAZ et al., 2010). A perda dos dentes ainda caracteriza um problema de saúde pública em todo o mundo, com taxas de prevalência discrepantes devido à forte associação com fatores socioeconômicos (MILLAR et al., 2005).

A periodontite é tida como a principal causa para a perda dos dentes. É uma condição inflamatória dos tecidos moles e duros que protegem e sustentam os dentes, respectivamente, induzida pela placa bacteriana e mediada por hábitos do hospedeiro (Lindhe e Meyle, 2008). Kassebaum et al. (2014), em uma revisão sistemática, estimaram que 11% da população mundial apresentava periodontite, sendo a sexta condição crônica mais prevalente no mundo. Sua patogenicidade é agravada com hábitos e condições crônicas de saúde dos acometidos, principalmente na população idosa acima de 65 anos, levando até mesmo a quadros de edentulismo total. A taxa de edentulismo é variável entre cada região do mundo devido à forte associação com fatores socioeconômicos. Como exemplo, vemos os Estados Unidos com 15% da população entre 65 e 74 anos edêntula total, comparados aos 55% da população brasileira de mesma faixa etária (RIBEIRO et al., 2011; DYE et al., 2012).

2.2. TERAPIA COM IMPLANTES

Desde a descoberta da osseointegração por Branemark, em 1965, os implantes dentários tornaram-se uma opção confiável de reabilitação protética de perdas dentárias unitárias ou múltiplas, restabelecendo a função e a estética. Anteriormente, a reabilitação de pacientes edêntulos totais era baseada unicamente na confecção de próteses totais convencionais removíveis ou suportada por raízes remanescentes sem comprometimento periodontal. Contudo, com o advento dos implantes osseointegrados, pacientes edêntulos passaram a contar com opções de reabilitações

totais suportadas por implantes, fixa (prótese híbrida) ou removível (*overdenture*), de maior previsibilidade. Em seu estudo clínico, Wismeijer et al. (1997) atribuíram um efeito socializante na utilização de implantes em pacientes edêntulos totais, provavelmente devido ao maior conforto proporcionado na utilização das sobredentaduras implantorretidas. Implantes endósseos podem ser utilizados de forma previsivelmente segura para retenção de sobredentaduras mandibulares (Battenburg et al., 1998).

Altas taxas de sobrevivência têm sido documentadas desde a descoberta e a implementação dos implantes osseointegrados em tratamentos reabilitadores, mas o sucesso no tratamento com implantes não deve considerar apenas isso: aspectos técnicos, protéticos e biológicos dos tecidos moles repercutem sobre essas taxas. Busenlechner et al. (2014) relatou os fatores de risco relacionados ao tratamento com implantes: o tabagismo e história progressiva de periodontite (condições inflamatórias crônicas) foram os fatores que mais se destacaram com valores estatisticamente significativos na avaliação de risco. Isso reforça a importância da saúde dos tecidos peri-implantares no planejamento e manutenção do tratamento.

2.3. SAÚDE PERI-IMPLANTAR

Uma revisão sistemática da epidemiologia da doença peri-implantar buscou quantificar a sua prevalência (Derks e Toms, 2015), apontando prevalências médias ponderadas de 43% (IC 95%: 32-54%) para mucosite peri-implantar e 22% (IC 95%: 14-30%) para periimplantite. Segundo Lee et al. (2017), em sua revisão sistemática, cerca de 30% de todos os implantes e 47% de todos os pacientes com implantes terão mucosite peri-implantar, enquanto 10% de todos os implantes e 20% de todos os pacientes apresentarão um quadro de periimplantite. Posteriormente, um estudo publicado por Rodrigo et al. (2018) endossou essa afirmativa ao sugerir que 1 em cada 2 implantes instalados desenvolverá alguma patologia peri-implantar.

Mombelli et al. (1987) avaliaram a microbiota presente em amostras de placa intrassulcular de pacientes com rebordos totalmente edêntulos com mais de 1 implante suportando próteses totais removíveis. Seu objetivo era de qualificar a microbiota responsável pela inflamação, na ausência de remanescentes dentários naturais. Em seu modelo de análise, após avaliação clínica e radiográfica, comparou amostras de todos os sítios implantados em pacientes saudáveis com amostras de

pacientes que apresentavam sítios saudáveis e não saudáveis. Amostras do mesmo paciente de sítios com e sem doença mostraram diferenças consideráveis, indicando que doenças peri-implantares podem ser local-específicas causadas por microorganismos patogênicos presentes localmente. Após análise das culturas, os autores concluíram que os microorganismos encontrados em sítios afetados por doença e até mesmo com falha do implante foram fortemente associadas com microorganismos presentes em sítios com doença periodontal (de acordo com o publicado na literatura até então), incluindo microbiota envolvida diretamente na inflamação gengival, profundidade aumentada de bolsas periodontais e quadros de gengivite ulcerativa necrosante aguda.

Karoussis et al. (2003) publicaram dados de um acompanhamento longitudinal de 10 anos após a colocação de 112 implantes em dois grupos de indivíduos alocados de acordo com o seu histórico positivo ou negativo de periodontite como causa das perdas dentárias. Os grupos com (grupo A) e sem (grupo B) histórico de periodontite apresentaram taxas de sobrevida dos implantes de 90,5% e 96,5%, respectivamente. Os índices de placa acumulada, profundidade de sondagem e recessão da mucosa peri-implantar foram mais altos para o grupo com histórico de periodontite, com diferença estatisticamente significativa na incidência de alguma complicação biológica ao longo dos 10 anos de acompanhamento (A: 28,6%; B: 5,8%). Os autores concluíram que pacientes com dentes perdidos devido à periodontite crônica e reabilitados com implantes demonstraram menores taxas de sobrevivência dos implantes e maiores índices de doença peri-implantar comparados a pacientes que perderam seus dentes por outro motivo.

Mayfield e Lang (2010), em uma revisão narrativa da literatura acerca das doenças periodontais e peri-implantares, encontraram semelhanças nos parâmetros etiológicos, patogênicos, fatores de risco, fatores diagnósticos e condutas de tratamento. Os autores relataram que há transmissibilidade da infecção periodontal de remanescentes dentários para sítios edêntulos receptores de implantes. No entanto, uma resposta imunológica do hospedeiro frente à infecção peri-implantar parece ser mais exacerbada e de mais difícil controle, apesar da semelhança entre os patógenos envolvidos. Isso evidencia a importância da prevenção e diagnóstico precoce. Por fim, concluíram que os pacientes com histórico prévio de doença periodontal podem ser considerados mais suscetíveis a doenças peri-implantares do que pacientes sem histórico, devido às semelhanças dos cursos das doenças.

Estudos avaliando a saúde peri-implantar de paciente edêntulos totais reabilitados com overdentures (maxilares e/ou mandibulares) retidas por implantes são ainda insuficientes e inconclusivos, mas já demonstram altas taxas de mucosite peri-implantar em médio e longo tempos de acompanhamento (Onclin et al., 2022). Meijer et al. (2014) demonstraram que a mucosite peri-implantar e a periimplantite ocorrem também na população edêntula total, em altos níveis de prevalência. Relataram taxas de mucosite peri-implantar de 41,2% e 47%, a nível do implante, em 5 e 10 anos de acompanhamento, respectivamente, em pacientes reabilitados com overdentures mandibulares. Onclin et al (2022) também relataram que implantes suportando overdentures maxilares apresentaram altas taxas de prevalência de mucosite peri-implantar, em 5 e 10 anos de acompanhamento (17,1% e 35,2%, respectivamente).

2.4. IMPLANTE *TISSUE-LEVEL*

Schroeder et al. introduziram, em 1981, os implantes de “corpo único”, ou (*Tissue Level*, Figura 1), para minimizar as desvantagens do microgap resultante da conexão entre implante e pilar protético, até então mantido a nível ósseo. Esta modificação na macrotopografia do implante buscou evitar a contaminação observada comumente na conexão implante-pilar e diminuir as micro movimentações da conexão. A avaliação foi feita em macacos e resultou em dados promissores. Segundo os autores, quando associados a um tecido imóvel e fixo (mucosa queratinizada) e a boas condições de higiene, um contato íntimo entre a mucosa e o implante pôde ser observado. Por último, os autores relacionaram isso à orientação funcional e ao arranjo das fibras observados em cortes histológicos, semelhantes ao que ocorre na dentição natural.

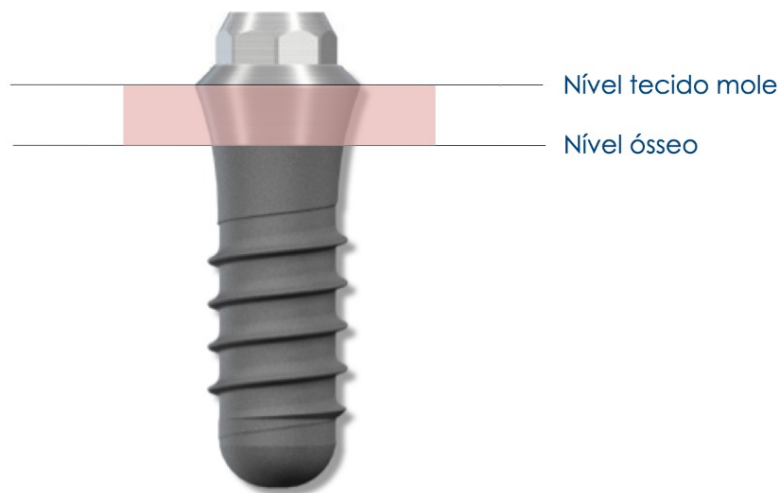


Figura 1. Representação esquemática de um implante TL (*Tissue-Level*, Straumann® Dental Implant System).

Fonte: Straumann Dental Implant System, 2022.

Buser et al. (1992) publicaram resultados de avaliações de cortes histológicos dos tecidos peri-implantares em torno de 24 implantes não submersos, a nível de tecido mole, colocados em cães da raça *beagle*. Em 4 meses de pós-operatório, todos os implantes apresentaram osseointegração e arquitetura importante a nível de tecidos moles (semelhantes àquelas ao redor de dentes naturais): estrutura epitelial com sulco peri-implantar e tecido conjuntivo denso e em contato direto com a superfície do implante, com poucos vasos sanguíneos e sem mais sinais de inflamação. Os autores concluíram que implantes não submersos ao nível de tecido mole alcançam ótima integração tecidual.

Buser et al. (2012) publicaram dados retrospectivos de 496 implantes instalados a nível de tecido mole em pacientes parcialmente dentados com 10 anos de acompanhamento. A análise demonstrou taxa de sobrevivência de 98,8% dos implantes. Um alto índice de saúde para mucosa peri-implantar foi alcançado baseado no índice de sangramento à sondagem. Para os autores, os implantes tiveram em média 1 sítio com sangramento positivo (dos 4 avaliados), e isso foi considerado como um sucesso clínico. Os autores atribuíram o sucesso ao fato de a amostra apresentar baixo índice de periodontite na dentição remanescente e de hábitos deletérios (ex: fumante), além de apresentar bons hábitos de higiene.

Uma revisão sistemática publicada em 2020 (Cosola et al. 2020) buscou responder se existe associação significativa entre diferentes posicionamentos dos implantes (nível ósseo ou nível de tecido mole) e a perda óssea marginal em implantes

carregados proteticamente e acompanhados por pelo menos 1 ano. Para a perda óssea e sobrevivência dos implantes não foram encontradas diferenças estatisticamente significativas entre as duas técnicas, mas os implantes a nível de tecido mole puderam ser associados a menores índices de sangramento à sondagem em 1 ano de acompanhamento. Os autores sugerem que alguns pacientes, como aqueles portadores de condições crônicas, podem se beneficiar de implantes transmucosos devido à ausência submucosa do infiltrado bacteriano da união implante-pilar.

Garaicoa-Pazmino et al. (2021) publicaram resultados de 1 ano de acompanhamento de um ensaio clínico controlado avaliando os efeitos da espessura da mucosa vertical em áreas de edentulismo unitário reabilitadas com implante de nível de tecido mole (Straumann® *Tissue Level*). Não foram relatadas diferenças estatísticas para os parâmetros clínicos (profundidade de sondagem, recessão, sangramento a sondagem, supuração, índice de placa e índice gengival) e radiográficos (perda óssea marginal) entre implantes instalados em regiões com > ou < de 2mm de espessura vertical de mucosa queratinizada. Os autores sugerem que locais com fenótipo gengival fino apresentam tendência a maiores complicações peri-implantares, mas sem dados significativos para comprovar a teoria.

Raabe et al. (2021) publicaram dados do acompanhamento de 55 pacientes com 72 implantes a nível de tecido mole (unitários, arcos parciais e arcos totais) e tempo médio de acompanhamento de 9,1 anos. No geral, 94% dos pacientes apresentavam bons hábitos de higiene e consulta anual periódica para avaliação. Uma taxa de sobrevivência de 93,2% foi relatada para os implantes, com índices baixos de acúmulo de placa e sangramento à sondagem ($0,26 \pm 0,38\%$ e $0,11 \pm 0,24\%$, respectivamente), além de bons resultados para profundidade de sondagem (média: $3,01 \pm 1,03\text{mm}$) e recessão da mucosa peri-implantar ($-0,64 \pm 1,32\text{mm}$). O fenótipo da mucosa peri-implantar também foi avaliado ao final do acompanhamento, com $1,91 \pm 1,76\text{mm}$ e $1,39 \pm 0,30\text{mm}$, respectivamente, de largura e espessura médias de mucosa queratinizada, não demonstrando influência significativa nos resultados de saúde peri-implantar.

2.5. TECIDO QUERATINIZADO PERI-IMPLANTAR

A margem de tecido queratinizado é anatomicamente definida como aquela que se estende entre as margens muco-gengivais bucal e lingual dos rebordos, sendo essa referência imutável com o tempo. No entanto, assim como a remodelação óssea após a perda dos dentes, com a redução do processo alveolar, a faixa de tecido queratinizado diminui proporcionalmente à medida que a altura do rebordo declina, devido à aproximação anatômica entre os seus limites bucal e lingual (Mericske-Stern et al. 1994).

Ainda em 1972, Lang e Le afirmaram que, para os parâmetros de saúde periodontais, uma faixa mínima de gengiva queratinizada ao redor de dentes ($\geq 2\text{mm}$) é essencial. Isso foi verificado após avaliação de 32 indivíduos jovens e dentados por 6 semanas, onde encontraram 80% dos sítios onde havia 2mm ou mais de gengiva queratinizada em quadro de saúde estável. Em paralelo, todos aqueles com ausência ou menos de 2mm de gengiva queratinizada apresentaram sinais de inflamação e, conseqüentemente, doença periodontal. Os autores relataram correlação positiva entre as variáveis e consideraram prudente concluir que uma margem gengival com maior mobilidade, ou seja, com menor quantidade de gengiva queratinizada, facilitaria a entrada de microorganismos, e que 2mm de mucosa queratinizada seriam adequados para manter o quadro de saúde. O conhecimento da influência da gengiva queratinizada sobre a saúde periodontal na dentição natural é, desde então, frequentemente transportada para a mucosa queratinizada, apoiando seu papel sobre a saúde peri-implantar. A literatura que defende uma faixa mínima de mucosa queratinizada como fator indispensável para a saúde dos tecidos moles peri-implantares em pacientes parcialmente desdentados é extensa e sólida (Meffert et al. 1992; Schrott et al 2009; Kim et al 2009; Chiu et al 2015; Souza et al 2016; Perussolo et al 2018).

Schrott et al. (2009) publicaram dados com acompanhamento de 5 anos de 307 implantes colocados em 58 pacientes edêntulos totais para suporte de uma prótese fixa mandibular. Consultas de manutenção foram realizadas com 6, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48 e 60 meses, com coleta de dados referentes a índice de placa e de sangramento, recessão da mucosa e largura da mucosa queratinizada. Os autores concluíram que, apesar de hábitos de higiene adequados e consultas frequentes de manutenção, pacientes com menos de 2mm de largura da mucosa queratinizada nas faces vestibular e lingual dos implantes foram mais propensos ao acúmulo de placa, maior índice de sangramento e maiores níveis de recessão, com atenção

principalmente aos sítios linguais. Os autores relataram preocupação e expectativa de que as recessões possam aumentar ainda mais em locais com pouca mucosa queratinizada em um tempo de acompanhamento maior.

Boynuegry et al. (2013) investigaram a influência da faixa mínima de mucosa queratinizada (>2mm), avaliada nas faces vestibulares de implantes instalados a nível de tecido mole (SLA de 4,1mm de diâmetro x 10mm de comprimento; Straumann, AG, Waldenburg, Suíça) suportando *overdentures* mandibulares, nos desfechos de saúde peri-implantar clínicos (índice de placa, sangramento à sondagem, profundidade de sondagem e recessão da mucosa) e bioquímicos (medidores pró-inflamatórios (IL-1 β e TNF- α)), com acompanhamento de 12 meses. Trinta e seis implantes de 15 pacientes foram incluídos no estudo: 19 implantes com 2mm ou mais e 17 implantes sem a faixa mínima de mucosa queratinizada (<2mm). Os índices de placa e de recessão foram significativamente mais altos para aqueles sem mucosa queratinizada mínima. Ambos os grupos apresentaram aumento significativo na profundidade de sondagem média e índice de placa após 12 meses, mas sem diferença significativa entre os grupos. Níveis mais altos de TNF- α foram observados no grupo com menos de 2mm mucosa queratinizada, aumentando significativamente no mesmo grupo após 12 meses. A diferença de IL-1 β entre os grupos não foi significativa, mas aumentou significativamente para cada grupo em 12 meses. Os resultados sugerem que uma faixa de mucosa queratinizada mínima de 2mm é mais eficaz na preservação da saúde peri-implantar, especialmente para o controle da placa e prevenção de lesões inflamatórias.

Em uma revisão de literatura sobre os principais achados clínicos da influência do tecido queratinizado na manutenção da saúde peri-implantar, Chiu et al. (2015) encontraram dados conflitantes para a recomendação de uma faixa de mucosa queratinizada como fator indispensável na terapia com implantes. No entanto, recomendam que em situações clínicas onde o controle do biofilme não é facilmente obtido ou onde há grande exigência estética, uma faixa de mucosa queratinizada deveria ser preservada, ou até mesmo regenerada, para maior controle da estabilidade dimensional dos tecidos moles.

Souza et al. (2016) relataram a associação de dados clínicos de saúde peri-implantar e da dificuldade de escovação com a espessura da mucosa queratinizada de 269 implantes suportando próteses unitárias ou parciais fixas com pelo menos 1 ano de função. Relacionaram o maior desconforto de escovação com uma faixa de

mucosa queratinizada insuficiente (<2mm) ($p < 0,05$). Piores índices de parâmetros clínicos de saúde peri-implantar também foram diretamente relacionados com áreas pobres em tecido queratinizado, como maior acúmulo de placa ($p < 0,01$) e sangramento à sondagem ($p < 0,05$).

Perussolo et al (2018), em seu estudo clínico com tempo de acompanhamento de 4 anos, relataram influência significativa ($p > 0,05$) de uma faixa insuficiente de mucosa queratinizada (<2mm) na perda óssea marginal, inflamação tecidual, acúmulo de placa e desconforto ao escovar, em pacientes parcialmente desdentados reabilitados com prótese unitária implantossuportada. Os autores concluíram que uma faixa de mucosa queratinizada superior a 2mm configura uma medida importante na proteção dos tecidos peri-implantares.

Apesar da vasta literatura, a real necessidade da faixa ampla de mucosa queratinizada para a estabilização do quadro de saúde peri-implantar tem sido frequentemente colocada em questão. Muitos estudos, inclusive, com base em resultados clínicos longitudinais, afirmam que não há influência significativa entre as faixas de mucosa queratinizada amplas (>2mm) ou estreitas (<2mm) – medidas após a colocação de implantes – sobre os parâmetros de saúde peri-implantar (índice de placa, índice de sangramento, profundidade de sondagem e recessão gengival), principalmente se associados a uma higiene eficiente (Wennstrom et al 1987; Wennstrom, Bengazi e Lekholm (1994); Wennstrom e Derks 2012; Ravidà et al 2022).

Wennstrom et al (1987) avaliaram longitudinalmente, por 5 anos, 26 sítios vestibulares de implantes com privação de mucosa queratinizada. O desfecho principal do estudo era a avaliação da recessão da mucosa peri-implantar, mas índices de saúde peri-implantar (acúmulo de placa, índice de sangramento e profundidade de sondagem) também foram coletados. Ao final dos 5 anos, os resultados revelaram que alguns sítios tiveram até mesmo a regeneração do tecido com aumento coronal de até 1mm de mucosa queratinizada. Apenas 3 sítios apresentaram aumento da recessão em direção apical em 5 anos. Os autores concluíram que, apesar da ausência ou da falta de uma faixa mínima de mucosa queratinizada, pacientes com bons hábitos de higiene e eficiente controle de placa não apresentam aumento da incidência de recessões peri-implantares.

Wennstrom, Bengazi & Lekholm (1994) avaliaram as condições dos tecidos moles em implantes osseointegrados colocados para o suporte de próteses parciais fixas (>10 anos de acompanhamento) e totais fixas (>5 anos de acompanhamento).

Dentre os índices clínicos avaliados, a largura da mucosa queratinizada e a mobilidade do tecido marginal foram incluídas. As avaliações mostram que 24% dos sítios não apresentavam mucosa queratinizada e 13% possuíam uma largura inferior a 2mm. A mobilidade marginal, caracterizada pela ausência de uma faixa de mucosa queratinizada aderida, estava presente em 61% de todos os implantes. Não foram encontradas diferenças significativas nos parâmetros clínicos (índice de placa e sangramento, profundidade de sondagem e recessão marginal) entre os locais com e sem mucosa queratinizada mínima (>2mm). Além disso, análises de regressão múltipla revelaram que nem a largura insuficiente de mucosa queratinizada nem a mobilidade do tecido marginal tiveram influência no controle de placa e na condição de saúde da mucosa peri-implantar (determinada pelo índice de sangramento à sondagem). Assim, o estudo não sustenta a tese que a falta de uma mucosa queratinizada aderida pode comprometer a saúde peri-implantar.

Wennström & Derks (2012), em sua revisão da literatura, buscaram responder à seguinte pergunta: *“Há necessidade de mucosa queratinizada ao redor dos implantes para manter a saúde e estabilidade do tecido?”*. Dezesete estudos foram considerados para a revisão. Variáveis de saúde peri-implantar, como índice de placa, sangramento à sondagem, profundidade de sondagem e recessão da mucosa eram avaliadas nos estudos. Em uma análise descritiva, concluíram que faltam evidências, principalmente de estudos prospectivos longitudinais, para mensurar riscos/benefícios da ausência/presença da mucosa queratinizada em implantes dentários. Ademais, os dados sugerem que, em situações clínicas onde há uma higiene adequada, a presença de mucosa queratinizada pode não ser imprescindível. Os dados de Wennström e Derks (2012) foram utilizados para a publicação de um consenso após reunião de experts da área da Implantodontia (Sicilia e Botticelli. 2012).

Em uma revisão sistemática de estudos clínicos controlados e não controlados, Ravidà et al (2022) examinaram se uma faixa de mucosa queratinizada insuficiente (pré-definida em <2mm) configura um fator de risco para doenças peri-implantares. Apenas para o índice de placa, favorecendo a amostra com a faixa mínima pré-estabelecida, apresentou diferença significativa ($p=0,002$). A análise estatística refere evidência baixa e muito baixa para todas as outras medidas de desfecho (profundidade de sondagem, sangramento a sondagem, recessão da mucosa). Concluíram que, com base na literatura publicada até o momento, o impacto

da quantidade de mucosa queratinizada em torno dos implantes como fator de risco para desencadear doenças peri-implantares continua inconclusivo.

3 OBJETIVO

3.1 GERAL

Avaliar a influência do fenótipo gengival na saúde peri-implantar de implantes de nível de tecido mole retendo próteses removíveis em desdentados totais mandibulares.

3.2 ESPECÍFICOS

- Avaliar longitudinalmente a influência da espessura de tecido mole no índice de placa visível [PI], no índice de sangramento à sondagem [BoP], na profundidade de sondagem [PD] e na recessão gengival [GR] ao redor de implantes de nível de tecido mole;

- Avaliar longitudinalmente a influência da largura de tecido queratinizado no índice de placa visível [PI], no índice de sangramento à sondagem [BoP], na profundidade de sondagem [PD] e na recessão gengival [GR] ao redor de implantes de nível de tecido mole;

- Comparar longitudinalmente a influência da espessura de tecido mole e da largura de tecido queratinizado nos parâmetros de saúde peri-implantar ([PI], [BoP], [PD] e [GR]) entre as regiões anterior e posterior da mandíbula edêntula.

4 ARTIGO CIENTÍFICO

Este trabalho foi escrito na forma de artigo científico e preparado de acordo com as normas para submissão ao periódico *Clinical Oral Implants Research* (Qualis A1, Fator de Impacto 5.021).

Article Type: Original Research

TITLE: The role of the gingival phenotype on peri-implant health parameters of (soft-) tissue level implants in patients treated with mandibular overdentures – A prospective clinical trial

Running title: Influence of gingival phenotype on peri-implant health

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Authors' Contributions:

Rangel Lidani worked on surgical and prosthetic procedures, data collection, data analysis and drafted the initial manuscript.

Gabriela Sabatini worked on surgical and prosthetic procedures and data collection, and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

Tarla Thaynara Oliveira dos Santos worked on surgical and prosthetic procedures and data collection, and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

Alessandra Cadore worked on surgical and prosthetic procedures, data collection, and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

Analucia Gebler Philippi worked on prosthetic procedures, drafted the initial manuscript and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

Luis André Mezzomo worked on study conceptualization, design, surgical and prosthetic procedures, data collection, data analysis, drafted the initial manuscript and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that have no conflict of interest.

Abstract:

Aim: To evaluate the role of the gingival phenotype on peri-implant health parameters around soft tissue-level implants in patients treated with mandibular overdentures.

Materials and Methods: Twenty-seven edentulous patients received 2 or 4 implants in the mandible to retain an overdenture. Gingival phenotype (width and thickness of keratinized mucosa [KG]) was assessed before surgery. Data were correlated with Plaque Index [PS], Bleeding on Probing [BoP], Probing Depth [PD] and Peri-Implant Mucosal Margin [ML] at baseline and 4 years after loading, and later stratified according to the mandibular region (anterior/posterior). Spearman's correlation coefficient and Shapiro Wilk, Wilcoxon, Levene and Mann-Whitney U tests were used for statistical analysis ($p < 0.05$).

Results: Data from 15 patients ($n = 46$ implants) were assessed. The overall means of bucco-lingual width of KG and of ST thickness were 5.26 ± 1.95 mm and 2.21 ± 1.05 mm, respectively. Overall prevalence of peri-implant mucositis ranged from 80.5% to 90.4% at baseline and 4-years, respectively. Regardless of the implant region, gingival phenotype showed a significant correlation with the lingual ML at baseline, whereas in the posterior region a significant correlation was observed between the soft tissue thickness with the buccal ML and PD at 4 years ($p = 0.011$). There was no

significant correlation for any other peri-implant parameter at the 4 years follow-up in the overall assessment (n=46).

Conclusion: Overall, the gingival phenotype did not influence the mid-term peri-implant health parameters that would justify the scarcity or absence of KG as a risk factor for mucositis around soft tissue level implants.

Introduction

Long-term success in implant therapy includes controlling the health of peri-implant tissues, which are often affected by inflammatory processes triggered mainly by the accumulation of bacterial biofilm (Lee et al., 2017; Rodrigo et al., 2018; Araújo & Lindhe, 2018). According to the 9th European Workshop on Periodontology (2015), the inflammatory process can be defined as peri-implant mucositis (at the soft tissue level), which predisposes to peri-implantitis (at the supporting bone tissue level), both of infectious origin (Jepsen et al., 2015). In this regard, the prevention and treatment of peri-implant mucositis would avoid the installation of peri-implantitis – a condition directly related to implant failure (Araújo & Lindhe, 2018).

The role of the keratinized gingiva (KG) on the stability and maintenance of peri-implant health is still controversial in the literature. Several studies advocate a 2-mm minimum margin to make it easier for the patient to better perform oral hygiene and stabilize the marginal tissue level, due to less accumulation of plaque (Ladwein et al., 2015; Souza et al. 2016). However, others demonstrate that there is no correlation between the presence of KG and the clinical parameters of peri-implant health (Adell et al., 1990; 1986; Sicilia & Botticelli, 2012; Garaicoa-Pazmino et al., 2021; Ravidà et al., 2022; Wennstrom et al., 1987; Wennstrom, Bengazi & Lekholm, 1994; Raabe et al., 2021; Ravidà et al., 2022). This may suggest that its presence is limited to the simplification of oral hygiene procedures. Systematic reviews suggest that where there is adequate hygiene, the presence of KG may not be essential, and that the current literature failed to define its absence as a risk factor for implant failure (Wennström & Derks, 2012); Akcali et al., 2017; Ravidà et al., 2022).

Inflammatory processes may also occur in the peri-implant tissues from the chronic bacterial infection that is established in the resulting microgap of the implant-prosthetic abutment connection (Martazavi et al., 2021). Sub-crestal or bone level implants were seen as predictors of damage to the supporting tissue due to the proximity with the bone crest (Cochran et al., 2009; Tesman et al., 2009; Caetano et al., 2019). Therefore,

soft tissue level (TL) implants, or one-piece implants, have been developed with a smooth transmucosal titanium collar that extends to the soft tissue surface, coronally displacing the microgap (Schroeder et al., 1981; Lauritano et al., 2020). Its positive impact on clinical parameters of peri-implant health is remarkable, but there is still controversy in the literature about marginal bone stability (Flores et al., 2018; Caetano et al., 2019; Garaicoa-Pazmino et al., 2021).

Although there are evidences that demonstrate higher rates of plaque accumulation in sites with insufficient margin of KG (Schrott et al., 2009; Zigdon & Machtei, 2008; Ladwein et al., 2015; Souza et al., 2016; Akcali et al., 2017; Perussolo et al., 2018), there is still a lack of controlled longitudinal studies that demonstrate its effect on clinical peri-implant health parameters in totally edentulous patients. The null hypothesis to be tested in this study is that there is no difference in the clinical peri-implant health parameters between edentulous regions with sufficient or insufficient preexisting keratinized gingiva. Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of the gingival phenotype on the peri-implant health of soft tissue level implants retaining removable prostheses in mandibular totally edentulous patients.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out as a randomized, controlled, double-blind clinical trial, approved by the Institutional Human Research Ethics Committee in February 2016 (protocol 1.452.492), and is in compliance with the CONSORT guidelines. The study was conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki (1975, revised in 2008).

The primary outcome of the study was Bleeding on Probing (BoP). A post hoc sample size calculation was run based on the results of the study by Boynuegri et al. (2012), based on the mean and standard deviation of the variable “BoP – Bleeding on Probing. The following parameters were considered: test power of 80%, standard deviation of 0.3, with alpha probability error of 5% ($p < 0.05$). The sample size was defined as a minimum of 46 implants.

Study population

Patient's recruitment was carried out between 2017-2019 at the School of Dentistry based on spontaneous demand of edentulous patients meeting the following eligibility

criteria: male and female patients with fully edentulous jaws, from 40 to 75 years old, ASA Classification I and II (American Society of Anesthesiologists, 2019), and who were not satisfied with their old conventional complete dentures (CCDs), were included. The exclusion criteria were: previous episodes of failure of osseointegration in the region of interest for implant placement, bone augmentation sites, reduced inter-arches distance (<15mm) (Misch, 2005), severe resorption of the mandible (classes V–VI according to the Cawood classification, skeletal malocclusion Class II (2-, 3- and 4) or III (2-, 3- and 4), heavy smoking (>10 cigarettes/day), decompensated type II diabetes, use of bisphosphonates, head and neck radiotherapy, immunodeficiency, presence of cyst or neoplasia in the region of interest for implant placement, and presence of bruxism, as detected by means of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine questionnaire (AASM 2014).

Patients who met the first stage screening were asked to undergo a digital panoramic radiography (second stage screening). For enrollment, patients should have at least 6-mm of bone above the mandibular canal and should not wish to undergo vertical augmentation procedures. Those who met the eligibility criteria were given information about interventions, risks and benefits and signed a written Consent Form (CF).

Randomization

Since patient's allocation was not yet decided at the planning phase, four implants were virtually planned to be placed in all patients, with the aid of the coDiagnostix® software (Dental Wings, Canada). The randomized allocation of patients to each experimental group (2 vs. 4 implants) remained confidential until implant surgery for both the surgeon and the patient. A black-, sealed and opaque envelope was chosen at random among envelopes equally divided into control and test groups and opened by a person not involved in the study. No stratification of the randomization was attempted. Subsequently, the group to which the patient was allocated was revealed:

Control group: Two conventional implants (≥ 8 -mm) in the interforaminal region (FDI regions 33 and 43) only;

Test group: Two conventional implants (≥ 8 -mm) in the interforaminal region (FDI regions 33 and 43), and two extra-short implants (4-mm) in the posterior region (FDI regions 36 and 46), above the mandibular canal.

Gingival phenotype evaluation

Soft tissue thickness

A multifunctional radiographic/surgical stent was fabricated in order to allow implant placement in a prosthetically-oriented position. Following bilateral regional block anesthesia, the anesthetic needle itself was used to mark the exact mid-crestal positions of the implants (33, 43, (36 and 46)) in the soft tissues with the aid of the surgical stent. Subsequently, an endodontic file (# 30, Dentsply Maillefer®) with a rubber cursor was placed by one single examiner (LAM) on the same perforation up to the first contact with the bone crest. The rubber cursor was gently slid with the aid of tweezers until the first pressureless contact to the soft tissue. The endodontic file was then removed and the vertical soft tissue thickness was registered in millimeters using a ruler.

Width of keratinized gingiva (KG)

The distance from the mid-crestal soft tissue perforation up to the mucogingival junction was measured in millimeters both buccally and lingually for each implant position, with the aid of a periodontal probe (Colorvue®, Hu-Friedy) by the same single and calibrated examiner (LAM). The 2 measures were added together and the width of keratinized gingiva for each implant site was obtained.

Implant surgery

Implant surgeries were carried out by one single experienced surgeon (LAM). Mid-crestal linear incisions, extending from either the canines (control) or the first molars (test) regions were made. A full-thickness mucoperiosteal flap was raised accordingly. The drilling sequence followed the manufacturer's recommendations (Tissue Level Standard Plus, Roxolid SLActive®, Straumann® Dental Implant System, Switzerland), and implants were placed according to the planned diameter (all regular body, \varnothing 4.1-mm) and length (4-mm or \geq 8-mm) up to the point that the rough surface was fully inserted in basal bone from the buccal aspect. All implants had a 1.8mm high, tulip-shaped, smooth titanium collar with a prosthetic platform at the soft tissue level. No soft tissue augmentation was performed to any of the patients of the study. Healing abutments were hand-tightened on the top of the implants for a non-submerged approach. Flaps were repositioned and single interrupted sutures were made with 5-0

mononylon to achieve primary wound closure. Patients were medically prescribed and given post-operative instructions. Post-operative examinations were made at 3-, 7- and 12 days after surgery. Sutures were removed at approximately the 12th day when the soft tissues were clinically healed.

Prosthetic treatment

Approximately 4 months later, patients were booked for implant-prosthetic treatment. Prosthetic procedures for the fabrication of implant-retained overdentures have been described by previous publications from our group (Sabatini et al., 2021; Floriani et al., 2022; Lidani et al., 2022). Dolder bars, with a 2-mm minimum hygienic distance to the top of the gingiva, were fabricated splinting the 2- or 4- implants. Following completion of the prosthetic treatment, patients were given oral hygiene instructions: mechanical debridement of the bimaxillary prostheses (internal and external surfaces) and Dolder bar (visible areas) with a soft toothbrush and a non-abrasive dentifrice; interdental brush for the lower surface of the Dolder bar and dental floss on all implant faces (peri-implant sulcus). These instructions were reinforced on a regular basis, either onsite or online via communication applications.

Periimplant Health Parameters

Assessment of peri-implant health parameters was performed immediately and 4 years after implant loading by a single examiner (LAM). Data were collected at 4 sites of each implant (buccal, lingual, mesial and distal), with the aid of a periodontal probe with markings every 3-mm (Colorvue®, Hu-Friedy, USA), based on the technique described by Mombelli et al. (1987).

Plaque Score (PS)

The mesial, distal, buccal and lingual surfaces of the implant platform were probed above the margin of the peri-implant mucosa. For each surface, the absence (0) or presence (1) of plaque was recorded. Subsequently, the dichotomous data (0 and 1) were converted into frequency (%) of the presence of plaque for each implant, varying between 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of the implant surfaces (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Plaque and calculus observed during the assessment of the Plaque Index (PS) on the buccal surface of an implant placed in the anterior region (43) of the mandible of a patient from the test group.

Bleeding on Probing (BoP)

The bleeding index was also assessed by gently probing the implant surfaces in a sequential and standardized manner: buccal, distal, lingual and mesial. The tip of the probe was gently and painlessly introduced into the gingival sulcus, following the inclination of the implant's smooth titanium neck, and slid horizontally across the surface. The presence (1) or absence (0) of bleeding was confirmed within 30 seconds after probing. Then, the dichotomous data (0 and 1) were converted into frequency of presence of bleeding (%), varying between 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of the surfaces.

Probing Depth (PD)

The probing depth was assessed by gently and painlessly (approximately 0.25N) (Berglundh et al., 2017) inserting the tip of the probe into the peri-implant sulcus, following the inclination of the implant's smooth titanium neck (Figure 2). The depth was defined between the margin of the peri-implant mucosa and the tip of the periodontal probe inserted in the peri-implant sulcus. The PD value was always

rounded to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. An arithmetic mean of the four measurements of each implant was performed to obtain the mean PD.



Figure 2. Light (0.25N) probing of the peri-implant mucosa with a periodontal probe, following the inclination of the smooth titanium neck, to assess the probing depth (PD).

Peri-Implant Mucosal Margin Level (ML)

The level of the peri-implant mucosal margin (ML) was evaluated through the distance between the implant prosthetic platform line and the mucosal margin (Figure 3) on the buccal and lingual surfaces. Values recorded were either positive, neutral, or negative, when the mucosal margin was located coronally, at the-, or apically to the junction between the implant prosthetic platform and the Dolder bar, respectively. The ML value was always rounded to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

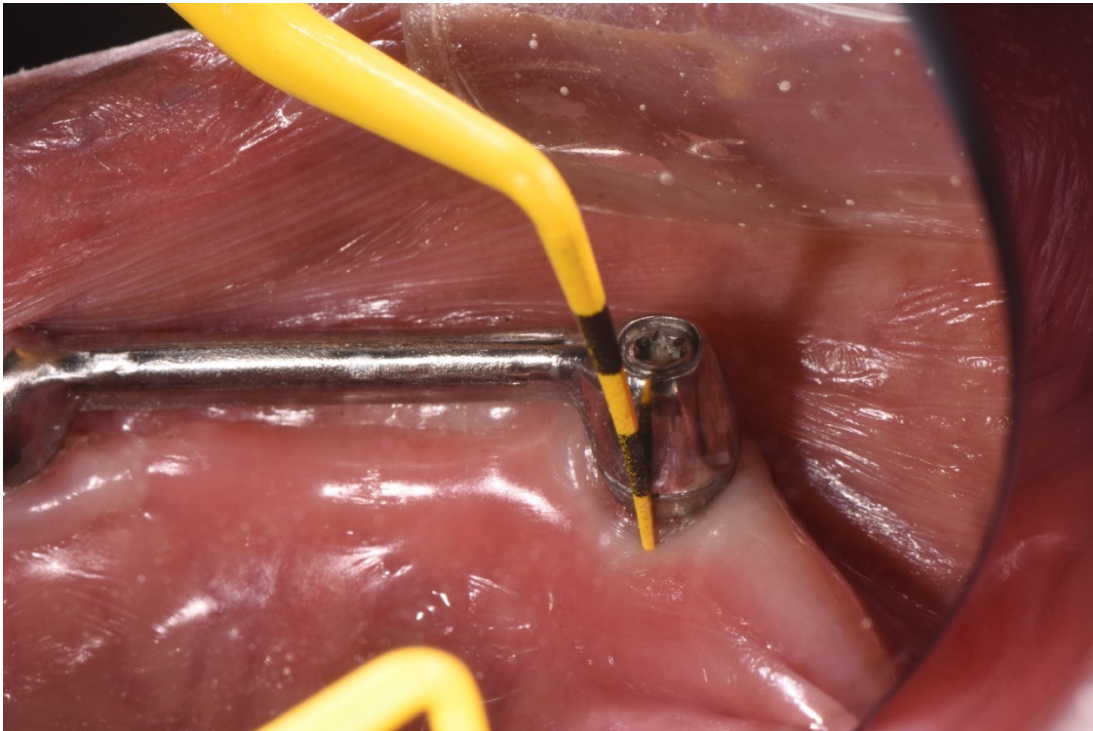


Figure 3. Examination of the level of the lingual margin of the peri-implant mucosa (ML) with a probe, following the reference given by the junction line between the implant prosthetic platform and the Dolder bar.

Statistical Analysis

Data are presented using means and standard deviations (SDs). BoP was the only variable that showed normal data distribution following the Shapiro-Wilk test ($p > 0.05$). Therefore, parametric tests were used for this variable accordingly, whereas non-parametric tests were used for the other variables. For the correlations between the width of KG and soft tissue thickness with the dependent variables (all quantitative variables), Spearman's correlation coefficient (ρ) was used. Comparisons between baseline and 4-years data were made using the paired t-test or Wilcoxon test. The implants were allocated into subgroups with regards to the variables *width of KG* and *soft tissue thickness*, based on cutoff points defined by the medians of the data (5mm and 2mm, respectively). Comparisons of variables according to soft tissue thickness and width (KG), at baseline and 4 years, were performed using t-tests for independent samples and Levene's test for equality of variances, or the Mann-Whitney U test for non-parametric variables. Stratified analyzes based on the implant region (anterior vs. posterior) were also performed. A statistical significance level of 5% ($p < 0.05$) was used. Data analysis was performed using SPSS (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 26.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp).

Results

Twenty-seven patients (18 females, 65.79±9.85 yrs.; 9 males, 65.47±7.66) met the eligibility criteria and were enrolled. Two patients were lost to follow-up (1 death and 1 move). Furthermore, data collection from 10 patients at the 4-years follow-up period was severely hampered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the end, data from 15 patients (11 females, 63.27±9.91 yrs.; 4 males, 63.64±10.24) ($n= 46$ implants) were available for the 4-years assessment. One single implant (4-mm long) was lost before prosthetic loading (overall survival rate = 97.82%) and was successfully replaced by another implant of the same length.

Gingival Phenotype

Overall and stratified (anterior vs. posterior) descriptive data of the gingival phenotype can be seen in Table 1:

Table 1. Overall and stratified (anterior vs. posterior) descriptive data of the gingival phenotype (width of keratinized gingiva and soft tissue thickness).

	Width KG[†] (mm)	ST[‡] Thickness (mm)
	Mean (SD) (min. – max.)	Mean (SD) (min. – max.)
Implants Overall ($n=46$)	5.3 (± 1.9) (0.0 – 4.5)	2.2 (± 1.0) (0.0 – 5.5)
Anterior Implants ($n=30$)	5.3 (± 2.2) (0.0 – 4.5)	2.2 (± 1.4) (0.0 – 5.5)
Posterior Implants ($n=16$)	5.3 (± 1.9) (1.0 – 3.5)	2.3 (± 0.5) (1.5 – 3.5)

[†] KG, Keratinized gingiva.

[‡] ST, Soft Tissue.

Plaque Score (PS) and Bleeding on Probing (BoP)

Descriptive data on the prevalence of visible plaque (PS) and Bleeding on Probing (BoP) are described in Table 2. A positive prevalence was defined as the presence of at least 1 site with visible plaque or bleeding. The description was performed both at the implant level and at the patient level.

Peri-implant mucositis at both the implant and patient level has been diagnosed based on the presence of BoP in at least 1 site (Berglundh et al., 2018).

Table 2. Visible plaque score (PS) and Bleeding on probing (BoP) indexes, at patient and implant level.

Prevalence		Plaque Score (PS)		Bleeding on Probing (BoP)	
		Baseline	4 years	Baseline	4 years
Patient (n=15)	Yes	93.3%	93.3%	80%	93.3%
	No	6.7%	6.7%	20%	6.7%
Implants overall (n=46)	Yes	60.9%	73.9%	80.5%	90.4%
	No	39.1%	26.1%	19.5%	9.6%
Anterior Implants (n=30)	Yes	60%	76.7%	93.75%	93.3%
	No	40%	23.3%	6.25%	6.7%
Posterior Implants (n=16)	Yes	66.7%	68.7%	80.5%	87.5%
	No	33.3%	31.3%	19.5%	12.5%

Table 3 shows the correlations between the overall (n=46), anterior (n=30) and posterior (n=16) gingival phenotype (width of keratinized tissue and soft tissue thickness) with the periimplant soft tissue health parameters at baseline and 4 years. The gingival phenotype showed a significant correlation with the lingual ML at baseline, regardless of the implant region. There was no significant correlation for any other peri-implant parameter at up to 4 years of follow-up in the overall assessment (n=46). For the stratified correlation by implant region (anterior vs. posterior), the gingival phenotype showed a correlation with the lingual ML in the anterior region at baseline, whereas in the posterior region a correlation was observed between the soft tissue thickness with the buccal ML and PD at 4 years (Table 3).

Table 3. Overall (n=46), anterior (n=30) and posterior (n=16) associations between the gingival phenotype and the periimplant soft tissue health parameters, at baseline and 4 years.

Parameters	Width of Keratinized Gingiva				Soft Tissue Thickness			
	Baseline		4 years		Baseline		4 years	
	ρ^s	p-value	ρ^s	p-value	ρ^s	p-value	ρ^s	p-value
Overall (n=46)								
PS (%)	0.260	0.081	-0.217	0.147	-0.037	0.805	0.184	0.221
BoP (%)	0.143	0.343	-0.197	0.189	0.232	0.120	0.202	0.178
PD (mm)	0.030	0.846	0.082	0.589	0.204	0.174	0.278	0.061
ML buccal (mm)	0.215	0.151	0.254	0.089	-0.056	0.714	0.051	0.735
ML lingual (mm)	0.309*	0.037	0.175	0.246	0.359*	0.014	0.149	0.324
Anterior (n=30)								
PS (%)	0.255	0.173	-0.117	0.538	-0.042	0.824	0.142	0.453
BoP (%)	0.358	0.052	-0.230	0.222	0.359	0.051	0.147	0.437
PD (mm)	0.111	0.559	0.217	0.249	0.214	0.255	0.136	0.475
ML buccal (mm)	0.187	0.322	0.337	0.069	-0.203	0.283	-0.189	0.316
ML lingual (mm)	0.439*	0.015	0.352	0.056	0.415*	0.022	0.105	0.581

Posterior (n=16)								
PS (%)	0.270	0.313	-0.459	0.074	0.030	0.912	0.256	0.338
BoP (%)	-0.462	0.072	-0.129	0.633	-0.160	0.553	0.329	0.214
PD (mm)	-0.136	0.615	-0.325	0.220	0.206	0.444	0.574*	0.020
ML buccal (mm)	0.292	0.272	0.144	0.594	0.323	0.222	0.614*	0.011
ML lingual (mm)	0.034	0.900	-0.440	0.088	0.178	0.509	0.087	0.748

[§] rho (Spearman Correlation's Test), PS (Plaque Score), BoP (Bleeding on Probing), PD (Pocket Depth), ML (Margin Level);
*Statistically significant.

Gingival phenotype was categorized into different keratinized gingiva (KG) widths (≤ 5 mm or > 5 mm) and different soft tissue thicknesses (≤ 2 mm or > 2 mm) for all implant sites, based on their medians. Subsequently, their effect on peri-implant health parameters were analyzed at baseline and 4 years (Table 4).

A KG thickness > 2 mm showed a significant increase in PD from baseline to 4 years, whereas a ST thickness ≤ 2 mm was directly related to a shorter lingual ML at baseline ($p=0.006$). The width of the KG (\leq or > 5 mm) did not significantly interfere with peri-implant health parameters. In 4 years, a significant increase in PS was observed for regions with KG width ≤ 5 mm ($p=0.006$) and ST thickness > 2 mm ($p=0.038$). Buccal recession was significant for ST thickness ≤ 2 mm ($p=0.030$) and lingual recession for thickness > 2 mm ($p=0.031$). Furthermore, a significant increase in PD was observed at 4 years, regardless of KG width and ST thickness ($p<0.05$).

Table 4. Overall comparisons between the gingival phenotype and the periimplant health parameters, according to the width ($>$ or ≤ 5 mm), thickness ($>$ or ≤ 2 mm) and follow-up period (baseline or 4-years).

Parameter	Follow-Up Period	Width KG	Width KG	p-value ^c	ST	ST	p-value ^c
		≤ 5 mm (n=26)	> 5 mm (n=20)		Thickness ≤ 2 mm (n=29)	Thickness > 2 mm (n=17)	
Overall (n=46)							
PS ^b (%)	Baseline	18.3 \pm 20.7	33.8 \pm 28.4	0.060	24.1 \pm 24.5	26.5 \pm 27.2	0.829
	4 years	49.0 \pm 38.4	36.3 \pm 26.3	0.252	37.9 \pm 33.8	52.9 \pm 32.9	0.145
	p-value^d	0.006	0.798		0.138	0.038	
BoP ^b (%)	Baseline	39.4 \pm 30.1	40.0 \pm 27.4	0.872	35.3 \pm 28.0	47.1 \pm 29.2	0.164
	4 years	50.0 \pm 36.1	43.8 \pm 22.8	0.520	43.1 \pm 32.0	54.4 \pm 28.3	0.216
	p-value^d	0.245	0.714		0.395	0.405	
PD ^a (mm)	Baseline	1.96 \pm 0.43	2.16 \pm 0.70	0.272	1.92 \pm 0.56	2.27 \pm 0.53	0.045
	4 years	2.67 \pm 0.57	2.71 \pm 0.50	0.807	2.56 \pm 0.47	2.92 \pm 0.57	0.024
	p-value^d	<0.001	0.009		<0.001	0.002	
ML buccal ^b (mm)	Baseline	-0.35 \pm 0.52	0.05 \pm 1.17	0.101	-0.10 \pm 0.72	-0.29 \pm 1.10	0.414
	4 years	-0.67 \pm 0.96	-0.28 \pm 0.79	0.099	-0.53 \pm 0.84	-0.44 \pm 1.01	0.827
	p-value^d	0.134	0.076		0.030	0.399	

ML lingual^b (mm)	Baseline	-0.56±0.74	0.03±1.22	0.142	-0.53±1.08	0.09±0.75	0.006
	4 years	-0.71±1.03	-0.48±1.06	0.539	-0.74±0.97	-0.38±1.14	0.359
	p-value^d	0.581	0.056		0.497	0.031	

KG (Keratinized Gingiva), PS (Plaque Score), BoP (Bleeding on Probing), PD (Pocket Depth), ML (Margin Level);

Values presented as means ± SD.

^a parametric tests; ^b nonparametric tests; ^c tests for independent comparisons (t test or Mann-Whitney test); ^d paired comparison tests (paired t-test or Wilcoxon test).

Table 5 shows the stratified comparisons (anterior vs. posterior) between peri-implant health parameters with KG width (\leq or $>$ 5mm), ST thickness (\leq or $>$ 2mm) and follow-up period (baseline vs. 4 years). The anterior region showed greater PD for sites with ST thickness $>$ 2mm ($p=0.022$), smaller lingual ML for sites with a ST \leq 2mm thick ($p=0.018$) and smaller lingual ML in sites with KG width \leq 5mm ($p=0.045$) at the baseline follow-up period. Greater buccal recession was observed for sites in the anterior region with KG width \leq 5mm ($p=0.028$) at 4 years. Smaller width ($p<0.001$) and thickness ($p=0.001$) were related to a significant increase in PD at 4 years. In the posterior region of the mandible, the width of KG did not significantly interfere with the peri-implant health parameters. The group with ST thickness $>$ 2mm showed higher PD ($p=0.015$), whereas the group with \leq 2mm showed higher buccal ML ($p=0.034$) at 4 years. All groups, regardless of KG width and soft tissue thickness, showed a significant increase ($p<0.05$) in PD at 4 years, when compared to the baseline assessment.

Table 5. Stratified (anterior vs. posterior) comparisons between the gingival phenotype and the peri-implant health parameters, according to the width ($>$ or \leq 5mm), thickness ($>$ or \leq 2mm) and follow-up period (baseline or 4-years).

Parameter	Follow-up Period	Width KG \leq 5 mm (n=16)	Width KG $>$ 5 mm (n=14)	p-value ^c	ST Thickness \leq 2 mm (n=19)	ST Thickness $>$ 2 mm (n=11)	p-value ^c
Anterior (n=30)							
PS^b	Baseline	18.75±21.41	37.50±32.15	0.116	26.32±28.23	29.55±29.19	0.752
	4 years	46.88±41.71	39.29±25.41	0.702	39.47±35.66	50.00±33.54	0.390
	p-value^d	0.045	0.964		0.299	0.148	
BoP^b	Baseline	28.13±28.69	39.29±30.56	0.261	25.00±23.57	47.73±34.38	0.057
	4 years	50.0±38.73	44.64±22.31	0.698	43.42±33.17	54.55±29.19	0.349
	p-value^d	0.078	0.611		0.114	0.583	
PD^a	Baseline	2.00±0.47	2.23±0.79	0.350	1.91±0.62	2.45±0.53	0.022
	4 years	2.61±0.66	2.76±0.52	0.501	2.57±0.52	2.86±0.69	0.200
	p-value^d	<0.001	0.066		0.001	0.119	
ML buccal^b	Baseline	-0.53±0.53	-0.25±1.12	0.346	-0.21±0.77	-0.73±0.93	0.126
	4 years	-1.09±0.97	-0.39±0.84	0.028	-0.71±0.98	-0.86±0.98	0.398
	p-value^d	0.053	0.506		0.070	0.453	

ML lingual ^b	Baseline	-0.78±0.71	0.14±1.31	0.045	-0.63±1.14	0.14±0.92	0.018
	4 years	-1.19±1.03	-0.50±1.24	0.125	-1.03±1.07	-0.59±1.32	0.627
	p-value^d	0.192	0.101		0.288	0.026	
Posterior (n=16)		(n=10)	(n=6)		(n=10)	(n=6)	
PS ^b	Baseline	17.50±20.58	25.00±15.81	0.380	20.0±15.81	20.83±24.58	0.953
	4 years	52.50±34.26	29.17±29.23	0.180	35.00±31.62	58.33±34.16	0.199
	p-value^d	0.063	1.000		0.303	0.131	
BoP ^b	Baseline	57.50±23.72	41.67±20.41	0.190	55.00±25.82	45.83±18.82	0.494
	4 years	50.0±33.33	41.67±25.82	0.575	42.50±31.29	54.17±29.23	0.400
	p-value^d	0.739	1.000		0.336	0.480	
PD ^a	Baseline	1.90±0.38	2.00±0.42	0.646	1.95±0.43	1.92±0.33	0.900
	4 years	2.78±0.39	2.60±0.48	0.447	2.53±0.38	3.02±0.28	0.015
	p-value^d	<0.001	0.016		0.002	0.001	
ML buccal ^b	Baseline	-0.05±0.37	0.75±1.04	0.056	0.10±0.61	0.50±1.00	0.391
	4 years	0.0±0.41	0.0±0.63	0.843	-0.20±0.35	0.33±0.52	0.034
	p-value^d	0.679	0.066		0.202	0.593	
ML lingual ^b	Baseline	-0.20±0.67	-0.25±1.04	0.736	-0.35±0.97	0.00±0.32	0.196
	4 years	0.05±0.37	-0.42±0.49	0.055	-0.20±0.35	0.00±0.63	0.390
	p-value^d	0.260	0.705		0.569	1.000	

KG (Keratinized Gingiva), PS (Plaque Score), BoP (Bleeding on Probing), PD (Pocket Depth), ML (Margin Level);

Values presented as means ± SD.

^a parametric tests; ^b nonparametric tests; ^c tests for independent comparisons (t test or Mann-Whitney test); ^d paired comparison tests (paired t-test or Wilcoxon test).

Discussion

The aim of this study was to investigate likely correlations between gingival phenotype characteristics (keratinized gingiva width and soft tissue thickness), without modification procedures, of fully edentulous mandibles with clinical parameters of peri-implant health of soft tissue level implants (Tissue Level Standard Plus, Roxolid SLActive[®], Straumann[®] Dental Implant System, Switzerland – regular body, ø4.1 mm, 4-12 mm long), placed to retain overdentures for 4 years by means of a bar-clip attachmet. The results presented show that there is no strong positive association that justifies KG being considered essential for the peri-implant health of implants placed at the level of soft tissues retaining mandibular overdentures, although a large accumulation of plaque is observed in patients with up to 2.5 years without maintenance appointments. We suggest that the macrogeometry of the implants combined with the fabrication of removable prostheses, which facilitate the hygiene of elderly patients, were essential for the maintenance of peri-implant health, with no case of peri-implantitis being observed in a long period without maintenance. In order to minimize bias, all implants were placed in the same locations (canines and first molars)

in the anterior and posterior regions of the mandible. Instead of the patient, the implant was adopted as the unit of measurement, since different phenotypes can be observed in different sites of implant placement in the same patient. The results even showed that variations in peri-implant health parameters were observed according to the region where the implant was placed.

Despite the extensive scientific documentation on the amount of KG around dental implants, its influence on peri-implant health remains controversial and usually limited to the partially edentulous population (Wennstrom, Bengazi & Lekholm, 1994; Schrott et al., 2009; Wennström & Derks, 2012; Boynuegry et al., 2013; Souza et al., 2016; Perussolo et al., 2018; Ravidà et al., 2022). The cut-off measures commonly adopted for stratifying the amount of peri-implant KG are based on those defined for periodontal evaluation: sufficient for areas larger than 2mm and insufficient for areas measuring 2mm or less (Lang & Löe, 1972). However, little is known whether this margin is adequate for assessing peri-implant health, and this may impact what is known about the role of the KG in Implant Dentistry (Roccuzzo et al., 2015; Akcali et al., 2017). For this reason, and also because the assessment was carried out at a period different from that commonly seen in the literature, we obtained the cut-off points (width of KG and soft tissue thickness) from the median of the data collected in the initial evaluation, stratifying areas with greater and lesser availability.

Few studies present data on causal relationships between peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis (Ravidà et al., 2022). This is due to the design of most of these studies (retrospective), from which only possible risk factors can be defined. Systematic reviews and the 2017 Worldwide Workshop on Periodontal and Peri-Implant Conditions state that more clinical trials are needed to answer whether or not KG plays a key role in peri-implant health (Brito et al., 2014; Chiu et al., 2015; Berglundh et al., 2018; Ravidà et al., 2022). According to the Consensus Report published from the 2017 World Workshop on Classification of Periodontal and Peri-implant Diseases and Conditions, the main characteristic for the diagnosis of peri-implant mucositis is the presence of BoP (bleeding on probing), regardless of probing depth (Berglundh et al., 2017). Hence, the incidence of bleeding in at least 1 site was considered sufficient for the diagnosis of peri-implant mucositis in our sample. Although BoP does not present a significant correlation with KG, its high rates obtained at both follow-up periods

should be highlighted, suggesting areas of tissue inflammation. Schimmel et al. (2018) sought to justify the high incidence of peri-implant inflammation in the elderly population in their immunosenescence process. This term has been defined as a decrease in the effectiveness of the immune system (Preshaw et al., 2017). According to the authors, immunosenescence and decreased motricity, both observed in the elderly population, result in an imbalance in the battle against bacterial threats due to the association between decreased immune capacity and increased accumulation of plaque. For these patients, the overdenture can simplify the hygiene habit by facilitating visualization and access to the implant platform and prosthetic components (Mumcu et al., 2020).

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, patients returned to their onsite maintenance appointments after an average period of 2.5 years. This is noteworthy because many clinical studies conducted during the pandemic time may have experienced the same damage. Despite being rehabilitated with mandibular overdentures that allow their removal and can facilitate cleaning by the patient (Mumcu et al., 2020), a high rate of plaque accumulation was observed at the maintenance appointment. This has been considered the main risk factor for peri-implant diseases (Bergundh et al., 2018). However, in this study, biological complications more serious than mucositis were not observed among all implants. Possibly, if they were either rehabilitated with fixed prostheses, or with bone level implants, and remained for the same period without a maintenance appointment for hygiene, more serious complications would have been observed with the sample.

Based on the literature, a greater accumulation of plaque is also frequently related to areas with a smaller amount of keratinized gingiva (KG), mainly due to the greater sensitivity of the lining mucosa to mechanical hygiene habits (brushing and flossing) (Chung et al., 2006; Boynuegry et al., 2013; Rocuzzo et al., 2016; Souza et al., 2018). However, the results of this clinical trial partially corroborate this premise and are in agreement with studies reporting that the dimensions of the KG may not influence the accumulation of peri-implant plaque (Kim et al., 2009; Sicilia, Botticelli and Working, 2012; Raabe et al., 2021). No correlation could be seen between KG width and/or soft tissue thickness and plaque accumulation observed at the 4-year follow-up, although patients remained without on-site maintenance appointments for up to 2.5 years before the final evaluation. In independent comparisons for the whole sample, areas with small KG width ($\leq 5\text{mm}$) were associated with greater PS, but the same was observed

for areas with greater ST thickness (>2mm), generating controversy. It is important to highlight that in places where the KG range was zero ($n=2$), no biological alterations were observed in the peri-implant health condition in an up to 4 years follow-up, as well as high rates of PS and BoP were not observed.

Hygiene habits are directly related to oral health and the incidence of periodontal disease, a major cause of tooth loss (Lang & L oe, 1979; Kennedy et al., 1985; Berglundh et al., 2018). Previous studies seek at describing the similarities between periodontal and peri-implant diseases and were able to ensure that patients with a previous history of periodontitis have a greater chance of developing peri-implantitis. These studies are based, above all, on trials with partially edentulous patients, finding similarity in the microbiota involved in the two simultaneous conditions of the same patient. In cases of full edentulism, the association between a positive history of periodontitis and the incidence of peri-implant diseases has not yet been fully understood in the literature.

It is believed that, in edentulism, in the absence of remaining teeth as points of accumulation of biofilm and deposits of pathogenic microorganisms, the host response to the bacterial challenge is the key factor that links periodontitis to periimplantitis (Karoussis et al., 2002). In this clinical trial, the patients were enrolled with a preexisting full edentulism and fully healed ridge condition, invalidating any attempt to relate the results of the peri-implant parameters collected with the cause of tooth loss due to the subjectivity of the patients' reports. This should be the key factor for planning and decision-making in the rehabilitation of fully edentulous patients. A longitudinal follow-up of these patients, from the terminal dentition phase to the follow-up of an implant-borne rehabilitation, can reveal important points that are still obscure in the literature. In agreement with studies that defend the presence of KG around implants, a strong positive correlation was found between the dimensions of the KG with the level of the margin of the lingual mucosa, especially in the anterior region (width [$\rho=0.439$] and thickness [$\rho= 0.415$]; $p<0.05$), at the baseline, and with buccal peri-implant recession in the posterior region of the mandible (thickness: [$\rho=0.614$]; $p=0.011$) at the 4-years follow-up. Thus, it can be suggested that, the larger the dimensions of the KG, the greater will be the lingual ML at all mandibular sites at the time of implant loading - after soft tissue healing around the implant, and the lower will be the recession of the buccal margin observed at posterior sites of the mandible at the 4-year follow-up period. This finding is relevant and suggests that analysis stratifications should be

performed considering different intra- and inter-implant sites in future clinical trials, given the heterogeneity of outcomes. In addition, every comparison where there was a statistically significant difference in the result favored the group with more KG. That is, areas with KG deficiency are more prone to peri-implant mucosal recession in 4 years. This was also reported by Rocuzzo et al. (2015), in addition that this is independent of other parameters of peri-implant health.

Width of KG was positively correlated with posterior buccal PD and ML at 4 years. Previous studies argue that the greater availability of KG, the greater the probing depth, but that this does not necessarily mean a diagnosis of disease (Berglundh et al., 2018). In fact, this seems to be associated with the greater recession observed in regions with few KG, decreasing the probing depth due to the lack of peri-implant tissue availability. Our results focused on the posterior region of the mandible proved that, the greater the width of the KG, the greater the probing depth and the lower the rate of recession in 4 years. Interestingly, despite not presenting a significant correlation result ($p > 0.05$), the anterior region was associated with significant increases in PD only in regions with smaller width ($p < 0.001$) and thickness ($p = 0.001$) in the 4 years follow-up. This highlights the importance of stratification in assessments. A likely explanation given by Schrott et al. (2009) for the heterogeneity of tissue responses in different regions of the mandible is that areas with little KG are associated with shorter ridges, and this, evidenced by the presence of the floor of the mouth, makes hygiene difficult for the patient, especially in the anterior region. Thus, poor oral hygiene suggested by the greater plaque accumulation observed in the anterior region of the mandible may result in more severe inflammatory conditions in regions with little KG, which may increase the probing depth due to swelling or decreased tissue resistance (Berglundh et al., 2018). This would show the positive role of KG where hygiene is not efficient, which is already suggested in the literature.

Even if uncertain in the literature, the presence of KG did not present significant outcomes relevant to overall peri-implant health. This finding contradicts what was concluded by Thoma et al. (2018) in their systematic review of the literature on the need or not to change the peri-implant phenotype. On it, the authors state that changing the phenotype in areas without or with little KG showed a significant improvement in the clinical parameters of peri-implant health, especially in BoP, compared to areas that did not receive this intervention. Thus, the performance of additional procedures for the regeneration of a band of keratinized mucosa around the

implants began to be advocated. However, the exact dimension to obtain the best results has not been reported so far. Furthermore, there was no stratification of studies based on implant platform. Our results based on tissue-level implants demonstrate that edentulous areas with a shortage (and even absence) of KG are not more susceptible to clinical scenarios of poorer gingival health when compared to those with large widths of this tissue. This was achieved despite patients not receiving supportive appointments for periods of up to 2.5 years, in which, despite high rates of plaque accumulation and mucositis diagnoses, there was not a single evolution to peri-implantitis or even implant loss. We conditioned this finding to the location at the soft tissue level of the implant platform, since the high accumulation of plaque observed, facilitated by the presence of the Dolder bar, by the decrease in motor skills of the elderly patient in his hygiene habits and by the long period without a maintenance appointment were not sufficient for the progression of the inflammatory process to the bone tissue supporting the implants, regardless of the quality of the gingival tissue. The literature already suggests that chronic inflammatory processes with an evolution time of less than 2.5 years observed in this study easily progress to peri-implantitis (bone loss around the implant) in bone-level implants. This is important for predictability in planning the prosthetic rehabilitation of edentulous patients, as it may change paradigms and make tissue phenotype modification unnecessary in fully edentulous patients with the placement of (soft-) tissue level implants.

To the best of our knowledge, clinical data comparing bone and soft tissue level implants associated with peri-implant health parameters in fully edentulous patients have not yet been documented. However, Rompen et al. (2006), in their systematic review of peri-implant soft tissues, concluded that the type of connection between the implant platform and the abutment/prosthesis directly influenced soft tissue integration, where single-piece implants presented more effective integration and more easily reproducible with the peri-implant mucosa. This was confirmed in the systematic review published more recently by Cosola et al. (2020). However, in both, the results are based on interventions in partially edentulous areas.

A limitation of this study was that it did not evaluate patient-centered measures of oral hygiene, but we do not discount the claims raised in the literature that KG can indeed alleviate hygiene discomfort. In future studies, additional comparisons with implants placed at bone level and fully edentulous maxillary and mandibular arches treated with fixed prostheses with longer sample sizes and longer follow-up times may demonstrate

the real role of KG in PS and the influence of tissue level implants and removable complete dentures.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the gingival phenotype did not significantly influence peri-implant health parameters in the mid-term (4 years) in soft tissue level implants placed in edentulous mandibles. Therefore, the scarcity or absence of KG did not prove to be a direct cause for peri-implant mucositis, regardless of the region of placement in the edentulous mandible. We suggest that future clinical trials with longer follow-up periods should be carried out to further address this topic.

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5 CONCLUSÃO

Os principais achados desta pesquisa são elencados a seguir:

- PS mais elevado foi observado em regiões com largura de TC ≤ 5 mm e espessura > 2 mm, em 1 e 4 anos de acompanhamento, respectivamente.
- O BoP não foi influenciado pelo FG (largura e espessura) em até 4 anos de acompanhamento;
- A PD aumentou significativamente em 4 anos, independente do fenótipo gengival prévio;
- Em geral, apenas a espessura do tecido mole esteve diretamente relacionada à ML da mucosa peri-implantar, em 1 ano.
- Diferenças comportamentais para cada parâmetro foram encontradas entre as regiões anterior e posterior da mandíbula, mas apenas sugerem que futuros ensaios clínicos com maiores amostras considerem essa estratificação em suas análises.

Com base nos resultados expostos, pode-se concluir que o FG não apresentou influência sobre os parâmetros de saúde peri-implantar a médio prazo (4 anos) que justifique a presença do TC como fator indispensável na terapia com implantes. Ou seja, não foi definida por esse ensaio clínico prospectivo uma relação causa-efeito entre a escassez ou ausência de TC e a incidência de mucosite peri-implantar ao redor dos implantes *tissue-level*, independentemente da região de instalação, na mandíbula edêntula.

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PARECER CONSUBSTANCIADO DO CEP

DADOS DO PROJETO DE PESQUISA

Título da Pesquisa: Fatores de Risco no Prognóstico de Próteses Totais Removíveis Retidas por Implantes Extra-Curtos (4-mm) em Mandíbulas Severamente Reabsorvidas - Ensaio Clínico Randomizado

Pesquisador: LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO

Área Temática:

Versão: 2

CAAE: 52286016.8.0000.0121

Instituição Proponente: Departamento de Odontologia

Patrocinador Principal: Financiamento Próprio

DADOS DO PARECER

Número do Parecer: 1.452.492

Apresentação do Projeto:

O projeto de pesquisa intitulado "Fatores de Risco no Prognóstico de Próteses Totais Removíveis Retidas por Implantes Extra-Curtos (4-mm) em Mandíbulas Severamente Reabsorvidas - Ensaio Clínico Randomizado"; é orientado por LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO.

Objetivo da Pesquisa:

Objetivo Primário:

Responder a seguinte questão: "Até que ponto as mandíbulas edêntulas severamente reabsorvidas podem ser restauradas com sucesso com próteses totais removíveis suportadas por implantes extra-curtos (4-mm) esplintados a convencionais (8-mm), com uma perda óssea mínima, baixa prevalência de complicações protéticas e biológicas, reduzida taxa de falhas de implantes e maior eficiência mastigatória?"

Objetivo Secundário:

- Avaliar a Perda Óssea Marginal (POM) de implantes extra-curtos e convencionais retendo próteses totais removíveis em mandíbulas severamente reabsorvidas;
- avaliar as Taxa de Falhas (TF) de implantes, Taxa de Complicações Biológicas (TCB) e Protéticas (TCP);
- avaliar o impacto da substituição das próteses totais convencionais antigas por novas próteses totais convencionais novas;
- avaliar a função mastigatória dos pacientes reabilitados com diferentes modalidades de

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próteses totais removíveis;• avaliar o tempo e custos envolvidos com o tratamento;• avaliar a satisfação do paciente e do operador sobre este tratamento;• avaliar a relação entre as variáveis (fatores de risco) relacionadas ao

paciente, ao implante e à prótese com os desfechos analisados

Avaliação dos Riscos e Benefícios:

Riscos:

A adoção de critérios de elegibilidade específicos por si só permitirá a eliminação de possíveis fatores de risco ao tratamento reabilitador com implantes dentários e a significativa restrição de eventuais vieses para o estudo. Os pacientes serão solicitados a comparecer a nove consultas em 60 meses, de acordo com o cronograma geral de visitas previsto no estudo. Abaixo estão listados os eventuais riscos relacionados aos experimentos propostos nesta pesquisa, com as respectivas estratégias para prevenção/controle: 1) Complicações de natureza biológica: dor pós-operatória, sangramento, edema, parestesia, infecção, periimplantite, perda do implante. Estes riscos serão minuciosamente controlados através da obediência a princípios básicos e indispensáveis no pré-operatório (anamnese e questionário de saúde geral, exame tomográfico auxiliado por guia radiográfico para planejamento cirúrgico, profilaxia antibiótica, controle de sinais vitais), no trans-operatório (manutenção da cadeia asséptica pela utilização de instrumentais esterilizados e materiais cirúrgicos descartáveis estéreis, anestesia local com doses de segurança, respeito aos limites

biológicos dos tecidos orais - temperatura, tempo, etc. e utilização de guia cirúrgico), e no pós-operatório (monitoramento regular do paciente nas consultas pós-operatórias, manejo adequado da inflamação e da dor pelo uso de medicação analgésica e antiinflamatória com doses de segurança, controle do risco de infecção pelo uso

de antibióticos por via oral e bochechos, instruções regulares de higiene para prevenção da periimplantite e da falha de implante, adoção de um protocolo convencional de carga protética para minimizar o trauma aos implantes no período de cicatrização, etc.). 2) Complicações de natureza protética: traumatismo transitório dos tecidos intra-orais, instabilidade da prótese, limitações estéticas e funcionais, fratura e/ou desgaste dos componentes da prótese dentária. Estas complicações serão prevenidas/ controladas através de metucioso planejamento restaurador, obedecendo princípios estéticos e funcionais

de execução da prótese total inferior, além da utilização de materiais (dentes, resina de base, implantes e componentes protéticos) de qualidade superior para minimizar os riscos de falhas, e, por último, através do monitoramento regular do paciente nas consultas pós-instalação da

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prótese. 3) Exposição à radiação ionizante: Neste estudo, os pacientes serão submetidos à radiação ionizante; porém em dose insuficiente para causar qualquer tipo de efeito colateral. Serão utilizadas radiografias periapicais digitais para o controle da perda óssea periimplantar na instalação dos implantes (T1), na instalação da prótese definitiva (baseline, T2), e nas consultas de acompanhamento, em 12 (T4), 24 (T5), 36 (T6), 48 (T7) e 60 meses (T8) após o baseline, seguindo um tratamento de rotina preconizado por esta escola. A radiografia digital permite um tempo de exposição à radiação ionizante significativamente menor comparada à radiografia convencional. Além disso, os pacientes serão submetidos ao exame de tomografia computadorizada de feixe cônico (TCFC) no pré-operatório, para fins de planejamento cirúrgico, na instalação da prótese definitiva (baseline, T2) e também nos tempos de acompanhamento de 12 (T4) e 60 meses (T8), para fins de medição da perda óssea linear e subtração digital volumétrica ao redor dos implantes. As TCFCs serão realizadas com um Campo de Visão (Field of View, FOV) médio (FOV = 8cm) e uma resolução de 0,20 voxels usando o equipamento i-CAT® Next Generation System (Kavo®, Alemanha). Este dispositivo de TCFC de FOV médio tem sido sugerido como tendo uma dose de radiação equivalente ao sistema panorâmico digital (Batista et al. 2012; Deman et al. 2014; Ruhland et al. 2015).

Benefícios:

- 1) O tratamento terá seus custos integralmente cobertos pela pesquisa, sem ônus nenhum para o paciente além do comparecimento às consultas e aos exames radiográficos.
- 2) Os pacientes incluídos apresentarão uma condição de saúde geral e bucal inicial homogênea, e serão alocados nos grupos experimentais aleatoriamente por sorteio, o que representa uma equidade de chances.
- 3) Os tratamentos propostos para os grupos teste e controle oferecem benefícios significativos comparados ao tratamento convencional (prótese total mandibular removível convencional): aumento da retenção e estabilidade, capacidade mastigatória, conforto e satisfação; e não oferecem maiores riscos para o paciente - o grupo controle receberá um tratamento padrão, consagrado na literatura e amplamente empregado há décadas (2 implantes convencionais esplantados por meio de uma barra na região anterior mandibular retendo uma prótese total removível). O grupo teste, por sua vez, receberá um tratamento com uma pequena variação ao tratamento padrão, isto é, pelo acréscimo de dois implantes extra-curtos (4-mm) na região posterior da mandíbula. Acredita-se, assim, que o acréscimo destes implantes esplantados aos anteriores por meio da extensão distal da barra permitirá uma diminuição do movimento rotacional e do braço de

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alavanca observados na região posterior das próteses do tratamento padrão durante a função mastigatória, aumentando ainda mais a estabilidade, a

retenção, a capacidade mastigatória, o conforto e a satisfação do paciente, e diminuindo a perda óssea periimplantar, falhas de implantes, complicações protéticas e biológicas.

4) Os implantes que serão utilizados são constituídos de uma liga de titânio-zircônia com uma superfície hidrofílica, os quais aceleram o processo de osseointegração e oferecem uma excelente estabilidade a nível de tecidos duros e moles, garantindo sua manutenção em longo prazo. 5) Os pacientes receberão consultas de acompanhamento e revisão das próteses dentárias confeccionadas no estudo, o que permitirá o diagnóstico de eventuais falhas e complicações que poderão ser solucionadas em tempo. 6) Os pacientes serão incluídos em um programa de manutenção das próteses, mesmo após a conclusão do estudo, de maneira a aumentar a longevidade destas.

Comentários e Considerações sobre a Pesquisa:

Há uma falta de evidências sobre o prognóstico de próteses totais removíveis suportadas por implantes extra-curtos (4-mm) na região posterior de mandíbulas severamente reabsorvidas. Os pacientes serão recrutados na Clínica de Prótese da UFSC. Aqueles que atenderem aos critérios de elegibilidade serão incluídos e um termo de consentimento será obtido. Todos os pacientes selecionados receberão próteses totais convencionais. Após

planejamento individualizado, cento e cinquenta (150) implantes serão instalados através de um procedimento de estágio único em 50 pacientes (T1), os quais serão alocados randomicamente em dois grupos (n = 25) de acordo com o número de implantes retendo a prótese: prótese total removível suportada por dois implantes convencionais na região anterior e dois implantes extra-curtos na região posterior (Grupo Teste); ou uma prótese total removível suportada por dois implantes convencionais na região anterior somente (Grupo Controle). Após 12 semanas, novas próteses totais removíveis implanto-retidas serão fabricadas e instaladas (T2 = Baseline). Os desfechos relativos aos implantes serão avaliados de acordo com os critérios da Academia de Osseointegração. A perda óssea será avaliada linearmente com radiografias periapicais digitais padronizadas (mesial e distal) com a técnica do paralelismo de cone longo, e volumetricamente por meio de subtração digital de tomografia computadorizada de feixe cônico na região posterior de mandíbula. Avaliações adicionais serão feitas em 6- (T3), 12- (T4), 24- (T5), 36- (T6), 48- (T7) e 60- (T8) meses após a instalação das próteses considerando também a satisfação do paciente. A função mastigatória será avaliada em T0, T1, T2, T3 e T4.

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Considerações sobre os Termos de apresentação obrigatória:

As pendências foram atendidas.

Recomendações:

-

Conclusões ou Pendências e Lista de Inadequações:

Considerando que a proposta apresentada se encontra adequadamente fundamentada, contendo documentação e demais informações pertinentes à questão ética em conformidade com os termos da legislação que trata da participação de seres humanos em pesquisa, encaminho voto favorável à Aprovação do Projeto.

Considerações Finais a critério do CEP:

Este parecer foi elaborado baseado nos documentos abaixo relacionados:

Tipo Documento	Arquivo	Postagem	Autor	Situação
Informações Básicas do Projeto	PB_INFORMAÇÕES_BÁSICAS_DO_PROJETO_647538.pdf	23/02/2016 18:42:04		Aceito
TCLE / Termos de Assentimento / Justificativa de Ausência	TCLE_Revisado.pdf	23/02/2016 18:39:42	LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO	Aceito
Projeto Detalhado / Brochura Investigador	Projeto_Detalhado_v2.pdf	23/02/2016 18:38:24	LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO	Aceito
Outros	Carta_Resposta_CEP.pdf	23/02/2016 18:30:21	LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO	Aceito
Folha de Rosto	Folha_de_Rosto_Projeto.pdf	06/01/2016 11:31:19	LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO	Aceito
Declaração de Instituição e Infraestrutura	Declaracao_Vinculo_Empregaticio.pdf	27/12/2015 19:21:12	LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO	Aceito
Declaração de Instituição e Infraestrutura	Declaracao_Instituicao_Comite_de_Etica.pdf	27/12/2015 18:06:17	LUIS ANDRÉ MENDONÇA MEZZOMO	Aceito

Situação do Parecer:

Aprovado

Necessita Apreciação da CONEP:

Não

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FLORIANOPOLIS, 15 de Março de 2016

Assinado por:
Washington Portela de Souza
(Coordenador)

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ANEXO B – Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido



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TERMO DE CONSENTIMENTO LIVRE E ESCLARECIDO

Prezado paciente,

As informações contidas nesse termo foram fornecidas pelo pesquisador responsável - Professor Dr. Luis André Mendonça Mezzomo (Departamento de Odontologia, Centro de Ciências da Saúde, UFSC). O objetivo desse documento é informar o Sr.(a) sobre a pesquisa a ser realizada, visando obter uma autorização espontânea por escrito de sua participação, e sem fazer nada contra a sua vontade.

O título deste trabalho é "FATORES DE RISCO PARA PRÓTESES TOTAIS RETIDAS POR IMPLANTES EXTRA-CURTOS EM MANDÍBULAS SEVERAMENTE REABSORVIDAS – UM ENSAIO CLÍNICO RANDOMIZADO". Esta pesquisa pretende tratar, com prótese dentária (dentadura) sobre implantes, pacientes com ausência de todos os dentes na arcada inferior (mandíbula), que tenham dificuldades de adaptação ao uso de sua prótese total (dentadura) inferior por falta de retenção, e que não apresentem quantidade de osso mínima na região posterior para a colocação implantes de tamanho convencional (>8mm). No estudo, serão oferecidos dois diferentes tipos de tratamento: a) prótese total removível (dentadura) retida por dois implantes convencionais (>8mm) na região anterior e dois implantes extra-curtos (4-mm) na região posterior da mandíbula (teste); b) prótese total removível retida por dois implantes convencionais somente na região anterior da mandíbula (controle). Inicialmente, o Sr.(a) receberá uma dentadura convencional nova para fins de readequação funcional (adaptação). A sua distribuição entre as duas opções de tratamento do estudo será feita por sorteio, e uma prótese definitiva nova será instalada 12 semanas após a cirurgia de colocação dos implantes. O Sr.(a) será submetido à aplicação de questionários, avaliações clínicas e radiográficas em 9 consultas – 2 antes da cirurgia, no dia da cirurgia do implante e nos períodos de 6, 12, 24, 36, 48 e 60 meses após a instalação das próteses. O exame de raio-x previsto (8 consultas) está de acordo com os cuidados de rotina para os pacientes submetidos a tratamento com implantes nesta universidade, à exceção das tomografias computadorizadas (realizada em apenas 4 consultas). Todas as despesas do tratamento serão cobertas pela pesquisa, e o Sr.(a) terá custos apenas com o deslocamento até a universidade para as consultas.

Assim, o objetivo é avaliar eventuais falhas e complicações que possam ocorrer com a prótese ou com os implantes após a sua instalação, a perda de osso ao redor dos implantes, custos e tempo consumidos, além da satisfação do paciente e do clínico. Isto permitirá identificar a duração em longo prazo dos tratamentos realizados e colaborar para o desenvolvimento de um protocolo mais seguro e confortável para o tratamento de pacientes que apresentem dificuldades de adaptação ao uso de prótese total (dentadura) convencional inferior e pouca altura óssea do osso mandibular, com próteses totais removíveis retidas por implantes extra-curtos na região posterior da mandíbula.

As medidas e técnicas previstas no presente estudo procuram minimizar todos os tipos de complicações. Para o exame da tomografia, uma técnica e aparelho de última geração, com uma dose mínima de radiação, serão utilizadas para garantir ao Sr.(a) uma proteção contra a exposição excessiva à radiação. No entanto, alguns prejuízos podem vir a ser causados pela pesquisa. Dentre eles, alguns que podem ocorrer imediatamente após a cirurgia de colocação do implante incluem aumento de volume e hematomas (manchas na pele) próximo à área operada, sangramento, parestesia (perda da sensibilidade do nervo), dor e desconforto. Para esta última, estão previstas medicação analgésica antes e depois da colocação do implante. Em caso de perda da sensibilidade do nervo, o tratamento para recuperar a sensibilidade será oferecido. Além disso, outras complicações podem ocorrer tardiamente, como por exemplo a

doença da gengiva ao redor do implante, trauma ou sensibilidade na gengiva, e dor e perda de sensibilidade em algumas regiões da face. Além disso, pode ocorrer até mesmo a perda do(s) implante(s) e perda do osso ao redor do implante. O Sr.(a) será acompanhado regularmente e receberá assistência e tratamento para qualquer tipo de complicação citada acima que vier a ocorrer. Inclusive, no caso de falha no implante, o Sr.(a) terá direito a colocação de um novo implante 3 meses após a sua remoção, sem nenhum custo. Pode também ocorrer complicações relacionadas à prótese, tais como: fratura da prótese, fratura ou desgaste de dente da prótese, aderência de resíduos na prótese, perda ou fratura de parafuso e peças relacionadas ao implante. Para todas essas situações, será providenciado o reparo ou até mesmo a substituição da prótese e/ou peça(s) do(s) implante(s), sem custo para o Sr.(a).

Suas dúvidas serão esclarecidas antes de qualquer procedimento e em qualquer momento no decorrer da pesquisa através do contato com o investigador responsável, de segunda à sexta-feira, via telefone (48) 3721-9520 ou pelo e-mail lmezzomo@ufsc.br. Ou, ainda, pode ser feito contato com o Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa com Seres Humanos (CEPSH- UFSC) pelo telefone (48) 3721-8084 ou pelo e-mail: cep_propesq@contato.ufsc.br.

O pesquisador declara o cumprimento das exigências contidas nos itens IV.3 e IV.4 (item IV.5 (a) da Resolução vigente para Pesquisas com Seres Humanos 466/2012) e assume o compromisso de disponibilizar informações atualizadas obtidas durante o estudo. O(a) Sr.(a) tem a liberdade de retirar seu consentimento a qualquer momento, deixando de participar do estudo, sem qualquer represália ou prejuízo, através do contato acima.

Ao assinar as duas vias do termo, sendo que uma delas ficará em sua posse, o Sr.(a) concorda em participar desse trabalho permitindo o acesso ao material (questionários, dados e material fotográfico) referente ao(à) Sr.(a) que serão obtidos neste estudo para fins acadêmicos, como aulas e artigos, sob total sigilo da sua identidade. Em nenhum momento o seu nome será vinculado a qualquer parte do trabalho.

CONSENTIMENTO PÓS-INFORMADO

Eu, _____,
Responsável pelo (a) _____, portador do
RG _____ e CPF _____, após ter recebido
verbalmente esclarecimentos sobre o estudo, concordo em participar do trabalho "FATORES DE RISCO PARA PRÓTESES TOTAIS RETIDAS POR IMPLANTES EXTRA-CURTOS EM MANDÍBULAS SEVERAMENTE REABSORVIDAS – UM ENSAIO CLÍNICO RANDOMIZADO", que será executado pelo Professor Dr. Luis André Mendonça Mezzomo, pela equipe de Professores da Disciplina e Prótese e pelos alunos de pós graduação do Mestrado em Implantodontia da UFSC e autorizo também a utilização das informações contidas em meu prontuário (física e/ou digital) e dos dados coletados durante a consulta, desde que seja mantido o sigilo da minha identificação, conforme as normas do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa com Seres Humanos desta Universidade. A minha participação é voluntária podendo ser cancelada a qualquer momento.

Florianópolis, ____ de _____ de 20____.

Assinatura do paciente ou responsável

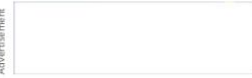
RG:

Assinatura do Pesquisador Responsável (Luis André Mendonça Mezzomo)

RG: 8062505171/RS

ANEXO C – Normas do Periódico *Clinical Oral Implants Research*

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Sections

1. Submission
2. Aims and Scope
3. Manuscript Categories and Requirements
4. Preparing the Submission
5. Editorial Policies and Ethical Considerations
6. Author Licensing
7. Publication Process After Acceptance
8. Post Publication
9. Editorial Office Contact Details

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Authors should kindly note that submission implies that the content has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere except as a brief abstract in the proceedings of a scientific meeting or symposium.

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 - v. Acknowledgments;
 - vi. Author contributions: Please provide a statement listing the contributions made by each of the authors. Example: A.S. and K.J. conceived the ideas; K.J. and R.L.M. collected the data; R.L.M. and P.A.K. analysed the data; and A.S. and K.J. led the writing. Please refer to the journal's Authorship policy in the [Editorial Policies and Ethical Considerations section](#) for details on author listing eligibility;
 - vii. Abstract. MeSH term keywords and word count;
 - viii. Main text;
 - ix. References;
 - x. Tables (each table complete with title and footnotes);
 - xi. Figure legends;
 - xii. Appendices (if relevant).
- Figures and supporting information should be supplied as separate files.

Authorship

Please refer to the journal's authorship policy the [Editorial Policies and Ethical Considerations section](#) for details on eligibility for author listing.

Acknowledgments

Contributions from anyone who does not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed, with permission from the contributor, in an Acknowledgments section. Financial and material support should also be mentioned. Thanks to anonymous reviewers are not appropriate.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Authors will be asked to provide a conflict of interest statement during the submission process. For details on what to include in this section, see the section 'Conflict of Interest' in the [Editorial Policies and Ethical Considerations section](#) below. Submitting authors should ensure they liaise with all co-authors to confirm agreement with the final statement.

Abstract

Abstracts should not exceed 250 words. This should be structured into: objectives, material and methods, results, conclusions, and no other information. Trade/product names must not be included in the abstract.

Keywords

Please provide 3-8 keywords. Keywords should be taken from those recommended by the US National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) browser list at www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh.

Main Text of Original Research Articles

The main text should include Introduction, Material and Methods, Results and Discussion.

- **Introduction:** Summarise the rationale and purpose of the study, giving only strictly pertinent references. Do not review existing literature extensively. State clearly the working hypothesis.

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Clinical Oral Implants Research conveys scientific progress in the field of implant dentistry and its related areas to clinicians, teachers and researchers concerned with the application of this information for the benefit of patients in need of oral implants. The journal addresses itself to clinicians, general practitioners, periodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons and prosthodontists, as well as to teachers, academicians and scholars involved in the education of professionals and in the scientific promotion of the field of implant dentistry.

3. MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS

- **Original research articles** of high scientific merit in the field of surgical and prosthetic aspects of clinical oral implant dentistry including material sciences, physiology of wound healing, prevention and treatment of pathologic processes jeopardizing the longevity of implants, clinical trials on implant systems, stomatognathic physiology related to oral implants, new developments in therapeutic concepts and prosthetic rehabilitation. In general, *Clinical Oral Implants Research* accepts *in vitro* studies for review only when there is an *in vivo* component to the study. *Clinical Oral Implants Research* encourages complete reporting of all data in one manuscript as opposed to reporting data (for example clinical and radiographic data) in multiple manuscripts.
- **Review articles** by experts on new developments in basic sciences related to implant dentistry and clinically applied concepts. Reviews are by invitation only from the Editor-in-Chief.
- **Perspective articles** on topical areas related to implant dentistry and clinically applied concepts by invitation only from the Editor-in-Chief.
- **Case reports** and case series, but only if they provide or document new fundamental knowledge and if they use language understandable to the clinician.
- **Novel developments** if they provide a technical novelty for any implant system
- **Short communications** of important research findings in a concise format and for rapid publication.
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Cover letters are not mandatory; however, they may be supplied at the author's discretion.

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The manuscript should be submitted in separate files: main text file; figures.

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- **Material and Methods:** Material and methods should be presented in sufficient detail to allow confirmation of the observations. Published methods should be referenced and discussed only briefly, unless modifications have been made. Indicate the statistical methods used, if applicable. Clinical trial registration number and name of the trial register should be included in the Materials and Methods at the submission stage. Authors who have completed the ARRIVE guidelines, STROBE or CONSORT checklist should include as the last sentence in the Methods section a sentence stating compliance with the appropriate guidelines/checklist.
- **Results:** Present your results in a logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations. Do not repeat in the text all data in the tables and illustrations. The important observations should be emphasised.
- **Discussion:** Summarise the findings without repeating in detail the data given in the Results section. Relate your observations to other relevant studies and point out the implications of the findings and their limitations. Cite other relevant studies.

Main Text of Short Communications

Short communications are limited to two printed pages including illustrations and references and need not follow the usual division into material and methods, etc., but should have an abstract.

References

APA - American Psychological Association

References should be prepared according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). This means in text citations should follow the author-date method whereby the author's last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text, for example, (Jones, 1998). The complete reference list should appear alphabetically by name at the end of the paper. A sample of the most common entries in reference lists appears below. Please note that a DOI should be provided for all references where available. For more information about APA referencing style, please refer to the [APA FAQ](#). Please note that for journal articles, issue numbers are not included unless each issue in the volume begins with page one.

Journal article

Beers, S. R., & De Bellis, M. D. (2002). Neuropsychological function in children with maltreatment-related posttraumatic stress disorder. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 159, 483-486. doi:10.1176/appi.ajp.159.3.483

Book edition

Bradley-Johnson, S. (1994). Psychoeducational assessment of students who are visually impaired or blind: Infancy through high school (2nd ed.). Austin, TX: Pro-ed.

Internet Document

Norton, R. (2006, November 4). How to train a cat to operate a light switch [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vja83KLQZs>

In-text citations

If your source has two authors, always include both names in each in-text citation.

If your source has three, four, or five authors, include all names in the first in-text citation along with the date. In the following in-text citations, only include the first author's name and follow it with et al.

Example:

1st in-text citation: (Gilley, Johnson, Wtchell, 2015)

2nd and any other subsequent citations: (Gilley, et al.)

If your source has six or more authors, only include the first author's name in the first citation and follow it with et al. Include the year the source was published and the page numbers (if it is a direct quote).

Example:

1st in-text citation: (Jasper, et al., 2017)

2nd and any other subsequent citations: (Jasper, et al., 2017)

Tables

Tables should be self-contained and complement, not duplicate, information contained in the text. They should be supplied as editable files, not pasted as images. Legends should be concise but comprehensive – the table, legend, and footnotes must be understandable without reference to the text. All abbreviations must be defined in footnotes. Footnote symbols: †, ‡, §, ¶, should be used (in that order) and *, **, *** should be reserved for P-values. Statistical measures such as SD or SEM should be identified in the headings.

Figure Legends

Legends should be concise but comprehensive – the figure and its legend must be understandable without reference to the text. Include definitions of any symbols used and define/explain all abbreviations and units of measurement.

Figures

All figures should clarify the text and their number should be kept to a minimum. Details must be large enough to retain their clarity after reduction in size. Micrographs should be designed to be reproduced without reduction, and they should be dressed directly on the micrograph with a linear size scale, arrows, and other designators as needed. Each figure should have a legend.

Although authors are encouraged to send the highest-quality figures possible, for peer-review purposes, a wide variety of formats, sizes, and resolutions are accepted.

[Click here](#) for the basic figure requirements for figures submitted with manuscripts for initial peer review, as well as the more detailed post-acceptance figure requirements.

Color Figures. Figures submitted in color may be reproduced in colour online free of charge. Please note, however, that it is preferable that line figures (e.g. graphs and charts) are supplied in black and white so that they are legible if printed by a reader in black and white.

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Appendices

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Patient anonymity should be preserved. When detailed descriptions, photographs, or videos of faces or identifiable body parts are used that may allow identification, authors should obtain the individual's free prior informed consent. Authors do not need to provide a copy of the consent form to the publisher; however, in signing the author license to publish, authors are required to confirm that consent has been obtained. Wiley has a [standard patient consent form](#) available for use. Where photographs are used they need to be cropped sufficiently to prevent human subjects being recognized; black eye bars should not be used as they do not sufficiently protect an individual's identity.

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A statement indicating that the protocol and procedures employed were ethically reviewed and approved, as well as the name of the body giving approval, must be included in the Methods section of the manuscript. Authors must adhere to the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) for reporting study design and statistical analysis; experimental procedures; experimental animals and housing and husbandry. Authors should also state whether experiments were performed in accordance with relevant institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals:

- US authors should cite compliance with the US National Research Council's Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the US Public Health Service's Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Supporting Information

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Note: If data, scripts, or other artefacts used to generate the analyses presented in the paper are available via a publicly available data repository, authors should include a reference to the location of the material within their paper.

General Style Points

The following points provide general advice on formatting and style.

- **Abbreviations:** In general, terms should not be abbreviated unless they are used repeatedly and the abbreviation is helpful to the reader. Initially, use the word in full, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Thereafter use the abbreviation only. Use only standard abbreviations. In cases of doubt, the spelling orthodoxy of Webster's third new international dictionary will be adhered to. Avoid abbreviations in the title.
- **Symbols:** The symbol % is to be used for percent, h for hour, min for minute, and s for second. In vitro, in vivo, in situ and other Latin expressions are to be italicised.
- **Units of measurement:** Measurements should be given in SI or SI-derived units. Visit the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website for more information about SI units.
- **Numbers:** numbers under 10 are spelt out, except for measurements with a unit (8mmol/l); age (6 weeks old), or lists with other numbers (11 dogs, 9 cats, 4 gerbils). Use no roman numerals in the text.
- **Decimals:** In decimals, a decimal point and not a comma will be used.
- **Scientific Names:** Proper names of bacteria should be binomial and should be singly underlined on the typescript. The full proper name (e.g., *Streptococcus sanguis*) must be given upon first mention. The generic name may be abbreviated thereafter with the first letter of the genus (e.g., *S. sanguis*). If abbreviation of the generic name could cause confusion, the full name should be used. If the vernacular form of a genus name (e.g., streptococci) is used, the first letter of the vernacular name is not capitalised and the name is not underlined. Use of two letters of the genus (e.g., Ps. for *Peptostreptococcus*) is incorrect, even though it might avoid ambiguity.
- **Trade Names:** Chemical substances should be referred to by the generic name only. Trade names should not be used. Drugs should be referred to by their generic names. If proprietary drugs have been used in the study, refer to these by their generic name, mentioning the proprietary name and the name and location of the manufacturer in parentheses.
- **P values** should be written in full and should be in italics (e.g. *p* = 0.04) - 3 decimal places

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When submitting revised manuscripts, authors are requested to highlight revisions in yellow rather than using track changes features. In addition, an author response letter should be provided including a detailed response to each point from each reviewer.

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- UK authors should conform to UK legislation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations (SI 2012/3039).
- European authors outside the UK should conform to Directive 2010/63/EU.

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The journal requires that all clinical trials which have a commencement date after 31st January 2017 are prospectively registered in a publicly accessible database and clinical trial registration numbers should be included in all papers that report their results. Authors are asked to include the name of the trial register and the clinical trial registration number at the end of the abstract. If the trial is not registered, or was registered retrospectively, the reasons for this should be explained.

Research Reporting Guidelines

Accurate and complete reporting enables readers to fully appraise research, replicate it, and use it. Authors are required to adhere to recognised research reporting standards. The EQUATOR Network collects more than 370 reporting guidelines for many study types, including for:

- Randomised trials : CONSORT
Clinical trials should be reported using the CONSORT guidelines. A CONSORT checklist should also be included in the submission material under "Supplementary Files for Review".
If your study is a randomized clinical trial, you will need to fill in all sections of the CONSORT Checklist. If your study is not a randomized trial, not all sections of the checklist might apply to your manuscript, in which case you simply fill in N/A.
All prospective clinical trials which have a commencement date after the 31st January 2017 must be registered with a public trials registry.
- Observational studies : STROBE
Clinical Oral Implants Research requires authors of human observational studies in epidemiology to review and submit a STROBE statement. Authors who have completed the STROBE checklist should include as the last sentence in the Methods section a sentence stating compliance with the appropriate guidelines/checklist. Checklists should be included in the submission material under "Supplementary Files for Review". Please indicate on the STROBE checklist the page number where the corresponding item can be located within the manuscript e.g. Page 4.
- Systematic reviews : PRISMA
- Case reports : CARE
- Qualitative research : SRQR
- Diagnostic / prognostic studies : STARD
- Quality improvement studies : SQUIRE
- Economic evaluations : CHEERS
- Pre-clinical in vivo studies : ARRIVE
Clinical Oral Implants Research requires authors of pre-clinical in vivo studies submit with their manuscript the Animal Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments (ARRIVE) guidelines checklist. Authors who have completed the ARRIVE guidelines checklist should include as the last sentence in the Methods section a sentence stating compliance with the appropriate guidelines/checklist. Checklists should be included in the submission material under "Supplementary Files for Review".
- Study protocols : SPIRIT
- Clinical practice guidelines : AGREE

We also encourage authors to refer to and follow guidelines from:

- Future of Research Communications and e-Scholarship (FORCE11)
- National Research Council's Institute for Laboratory Animal Research guidelines
- The Gold Standard Publication Checklist from Hooijmans and colleagues

- Minimum Information Guidelines from Diverse Bioscience Communities (MIBBI) website
- FAIRsharing website

Species Names

Upon its first use in the title, abstract, and text, the common name of a species should be followed by the scientific name (genus, species, and authority) in parentheses. For well-known species, however, scientific names may be omitted from article titles. If no common name exists in English, only the scientific name should be used.

Genetic Nomenclature

Sequence variants should be described in the text and tables using both DNA and protein designations whenever appropriate. Sequence variant nomenclature must follow the current HGVS guidelines; see varnomen.hgvs.org, where examples of acceptable nomenclature are provided.

Sequence Data

Nucleotide sequence data can be submitted in electronic form to any of the three major collaborative databases: DDBJ, EMBL, or GenBank. It is only necessary to submit to one database as data are exchanged between DDBJ, EMBL, and GenBank on a daily basis. The suggested wording for referring to accession-number information is: "These sequence data have been submitted to the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank databases under accession number U12345". Addresses are as follows:

- DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ): www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp
- EMBL Nucleotide Archive: ebi.ac.uk/ena
- GenBank: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank

Proteins sequence data should be submitted to either of the following repositories:

- Protein Information Resource (PIR): pir.georgetown.edu
- SWISS-PROT: expasy.ch/sprot/sprot-top

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