Space Maintenance using Tenting Screws in Atrophic Extraction Sockets

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Approximately 20 million teeth are extracted each year in the United States, alone! With an increasing demand for fixed options, more patients are leaning towards implants. Restoratively driven implant surgery requires adequate ridge dimensions for proper implant placement. In today’s clinical practice, the clinician is often faced with the dilemma of how to prepare the future implant site of a severely compromised tooth that is treatment planned for extraction.

Extraction of teeth is followed by loss in height and width of the alveolar process resulting in a narrowing and shortening of the residual ridge. Socket augmentation done at the time of extraction helps to reduce bone and soft tissue loss. It also increases the amount of bone fill, thus reducing or eliminating the need for future ridge augmentation.

Tenting screws are an alternative to the gold standard of block grafting. This technique is highly predictable and can be utilized to restore the horizontal and vertical component of atrophic extraction sockets and in addition expands the soft tissue volume.

We will demonstrate tenting screw technique through a series of clinical cases where we have successfully employed consistently on our patients to facilitate GBR in atrophic extraction sockets.