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Case Report

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Management of Dental Implant in Mandibular Idiopathic Osteosclerosis: A Case Report

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Abstract

Idiopathic osteosclerosis (IO) is a high-density lesion frequently found in the mandibular alveolar bone, but few cases have been reporte to describe approaches to dental implant treatment. This clinical report describes a successful implant restoration for a 25-year-old man with IO in the right mandibular bone which followed up for 23 months. Moreover, histological examinations, including HE, Masson, and immunohistochemistry staining, were further performed to investigate the micromorphology of IO tissues. Finally, the operative strategies are concluded according to the case report and the microstructures. This article provides an effective therapeutic experience for dental implant treatment with IO.

Introduction

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Idiopathic osteosclerosis (IO), also called osteosclerosis, enostosis or dense bone island, is a common intrabony radiopaque lesion with an estimated prevalence of 3%-6% [1, 2]. As a localized lesion with different shapes and sizes, IO is mainly located in the mandibular premolar and molar areas, single or multiple, and is characterized by an increased bone density. IO is often discovered through an incidental X-ray examination, exhibiting a uniform highdensity block mass that can be close to or far from the tooth roots [3, 4]. Surrounded by normal bone, IO has a well-defined margin but no capsule, which may be difficult to distinguish from some cases of condensing osteitis or alveolar bone inflammation caused by periapical periodontitis [5].

In most cases, IO is clinically asymptomatic with no need for specific treatment, but it has a certain influence on implant therapy when found in edentulous areas. Osseointegration plays an essential role in the clinical success of implants. During the process of osseointegration, the blood clot is replaced by granulation tissue, and mesenchymal cells start to differentiate. Newly formed vascular structures and woven bone promote the establishment of mature osseointegration [6]. The histological characteristics and osseointegration process in normal bone tissues have been thoroughly investigated; however, few reports on the histological characteristics of IO are available in the literature. Meanwhile, clinical experience in dealing with IO in implant therapy is rarely mentioned. This case shows how we managed implant therapy in a mandibular IO area. Moreover, a clinical biopsy was obtained to investigate the histological morphology of the IO tissues.

Case Report

A 25-year-old man with loss of the right mandibular first molar was referred to the Department of Implantology at Shanghai Stomatological Hospital seeking implant-supported restorations. He reported no systematic diseases and no use of drugs. The clinical examination revealed the loss of the right mandibular molar. The buccal alveolar bone was moderately absorbed. His oral hygiene was poor with dental calculus. Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) showed a high-density mass under the alveolar crest located at the ideal implant site, 7.86×11.48mm in size, extending to the buccal-lingual bone plate (Figure 1).





Implant surgery was performed after periodontal treatment. A brand new Straumann surgical instrument was used for better bone preparation. Graded drilling ensured proper implant positioning and spacing while avoiding overheating. Cold normal saline was additionally applied around the surgery site to reduce heat production. An implant (Bone Level Tapered; 4.1 mm×10 mm; Institut Straumann AG) was placed after thread tapping (Figure

2). The insertion torque was 80 N·cm. The secondary surgery was completed 3 months later, with no evident marginal bone loss, and the ceramic crown was placed using intraoral scanning and the CAD/CAM technique (Figure 3). At the 23-month follow-up, the implant functioned normally, and the marginal bone remained stable (Figure 4).



Figure 2: Postoperative CBCT immediately after dental implant. (A) Panoramic view; (B) Sagittal view.



Figure 3: (A, B, C) Post-secondary surgery, buccal view, occlusal view and periapical radiograph. (D, E, F) Prosthesis placement, digital design, occlusal view and periapical radiograph.



Figure 4: 23-month follow-up, (A) Buccal view; (B) Occlusal view; (C) Periapical radiograph.

During the operation to place the implant, a biopsy was taken from the graded drilling. The bone tissues were decalcified by 10% EDTA for histological analysis. Hematoxylin-eosin (HE) staining showed that the IO tissues had few osteocytes, osteoblasts and osteoclasts, mainly just lamellar bone, which was regular and closely arranged, while the normal bone tissues had more trabecular structures, fibers, osteoblasts and osteoclasts (Figure 5). Masson staining revealed that the mature bone-derived IO tissues included fewer dark blue-stained collagen fibers than the normal bone (Figure 6). Moreover, immunohistochemical (IHC) staining for osteocalcin (OCN) and CD31 was conducted to investigate the distribution of the osteoblasts and vascular tissues. OCN was expressed in normal bone but not in IO tissues, confirming that the IO tissues contained very few osteoblasts (Figure 7). Similar results were observed for CD31, with few CD31-positive cells observed in the IO tissues (Figure 8).



Figure 5: (A, B) Representative images of hematoxylin-eosin (HE) staining of IO tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm). (C, D) Representative images of HE staining of normal bone tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm).



Figure 6: (A, B) Representative images of Masson staining of IO tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm). (C, D) Representative images of Masson staining of normal bone tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm).



Figure 7: (A, B) Representative images of immunohistochemical staining against Osteocalcin (OCN) of IO tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm). (C, D) Representative images of immunohistochemical staining against OCN of normal bone tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm).



Figure 8: (A, B) Representative images of immunohistochemical staining against CD31 of IO tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm). (C, D) Representative images of immunohistochemical staining against CD31 of normal bone tissues (Scale bars: 100µm, 50µm).

Discussion

IO has no known etiology. Most lesions are stable in size, while in some cases, the lesions will diminish or disappear. In this case, as the patient insisted, we designed detailed procedures and performed a biopsy. Histopathological examination confirmed the diagnosis. The tissue sections revealed thick dense bone filling the IO region. Osteoblastic rimming of the bony masses was not detected. Collagen fibers and other vascular tissues were rarely seen. There were no inflammatory cells.

Predicting implant success is an inherently difficult challenge. Usually, better bone-to-implant contact develops over time in implants placed in more dense bone; however, the bone density of IO is much higher than that of normal bone [7, 8]. Bones such as type III bone with great regenerative potential are prone to form osseointegration. Type I bone is considered to have less potential for cell proliferation and mineralization [9]. This case indicates that high-density bone may also achieve good osseointegration. It is presumed that a fully bonded interface is appropriate for achieving interlocking between the thread and lamellar bone. The initial stability of the implant is essential for successful osseointegration [10].

An IO lesion is composed of dense bone. Four operative strategies are concluded according to the case report and the microstructures. Firstly, using a brand new instrument. During oral surgical bone preparation, there is a direct correlation between drill wear and intraosseous temperatures [11]. Therefore, it is necessary to use new instruments to ensure quick intraoperative drilling and low temperatures. Secondly, auxiliary cooling when preparing the alveolar bone. Adequate irrigation with cold water also plays a significant role in keeping the intraosseous temperature down [12]. Thirdly, over preparation slightly to reduce the insertion torque. Last but not least, designment of the implant. The implant size should be appropriately reduced within a safe range to reduce insertion torque, and a self-tapping implant with tapered design is favored [13]. Following the above operation strategies, the implant in the IO region with a functional prosthesis worked well in the present case.

In conclusion, the implant placed in idiopathic osteosclerosis successfully restored function in this case. Characterized with thick dense bone with little collagen fibers, idiopathic osteosclerosis exhibits little mature osteoblasts and vascular tissues. Reduced heat production, sufficient or even over bone preparation, and application of self-tapping implants are the keys to success.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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