Preface

Implant Procedures

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Guest Editor

This issue of the *Atlas of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinics of North America* is designed to aid clinicians in several current techniques that promote efficient patient care while decreasing the traditional morbidity associated with major grafting procedures. The issue also focuses on techniques for enhancing the aesthetic result, taking into consideration preserving and creating bone in extraction sites as well as using adjunctive soft tissue procedures.

The first two articles represent the author's experiences with creating and preserving bone after tooth extraction, as well as the use of a minimally morbid technique to augment the thin alveolar ridge. These two procedures allow for in-office procedures without the need for deep sedation and provide a ridge that can receive an implant for the final restoration of the patient. The articles by Dr. Hisham Nasr and Dr. Jon Perenack demonstrate how soft tissue procedures on the alveolus and the lips can be used to enhance the final aesthetic appearance of restorations in the anterior maxilla. These procedures are extremely important for the patient's benefit. The aging process and loss of tissue support from loss of teeth can be reversed if careful treatment planning for the soft tissues is used. The article by Dr. Scott Ganz demonstrates the practical use of imaging to facilitate planning and rehabilitation of the patient with minimal incisions and minimal flap reflection. The use of imaging allows for preoperative fabrication of the final or provisional restoration, which is important to our patients. The edentulous maxilla is one of the most challenging sites to achieve a fixed or fixed/removable restoration, especially in the patient who may not desire or be a good candidate for extensive bone graft procedures. The use of recombinant protein or zygomatic implants eliminates the need for autogenous bone grafts in selected patients. Once bone is formed or has been determined to be available, multiple implants can be used to provide an immediate provisional or final restoration.

The authors have spent considerable time and effort to submit articles that are thorough and well thought out, providing readers with an excellent reference source. I would like to thank the authors for their time and dedication to make this issue possible.

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