Early and immediate loading

The early loading protocol refers to the placement of a provisional or permanent restoration prior to the time of conventional loading but after the time considered immediate loading.\(^1\,2\)

A number of clinical studies with a follow-up range between 1 and 5 years reporting on Astra Tech implants, shows good clinical results with survival rates close to 100% in early loading situations of single implants\(^3\,8\), and partial or full arch restorations\(^9\,12\) whether placed in maxilla or mandible and located in anterior or posterior locations.\(^4\,10\,13\,15\) Published data from 1-year studies shows predictable results for implants placed in extraction sockets and early loaded\(^8\,16\). High patient satisfaction has been reported when using an early loading protocol.\(^11\,17\) Moreover, results from prospective studies evaluating early loading of OsseoSpeed™ implants show maintained marginal bone levels with a mean marginal bone loss below 0.3 mm after five years of loading.\(^13\,18\).

Immediate loading refers to situations where implant placement and loading take place at the same visit or within 48 hours.\(^1\,2\) Immediate loading offers many potential advantages, such as reduced number of surgical procedures and an esthetic solution within 48 hours.

Several clinical studies with the Astra Tech Implant System™ show safe and predictable results when using a one-stage surgical protocol followed by immediate loading.\(^19\,33\) The studies cover implants placed in different regions and indications: mandible and maxilla\(^19\,22\,33\,34\), atrophic maxilla\(^21\,35\), single-tooth restorations\(^19\,25\,31\), total fixed prostheses\(^20\,22\,23\,26\,27\), and immediate installation in extraction sockets\(^28\,36\,38\). Results from prospective 1, 2 and 5 year studies evaluating OsseoSpeed implants show maintained marginal bone levels with a mean marginal bone loss below 0.3 mm, when applying immediate functional loading using different surgical techniques.\(^18\,25\,39\,40\).