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Title
Abutment Color and Mucosal Thickness – What is the Correlation?

Synopsis:
Abutment selection is a key component in implant prosthodontics and requires special considerations in esthetic sites. Compared to prefabricated abutments, custom abutments offer the choice of various materials and the possibility to individualize position, angulation, contour, margin location, and even color. Mucosal thickness presents one of the determining factors when choosing abutments for implant restorations in the esthetic zone. Titanium abutments have the advantage of proven mechanical stability long-term. But they tend to induce a noticeable color change in thin labial peri-implant mucosa. Abutments made of zirconia fair much better in this regard. However, their long-term performance in the oral environment remains unproven. Colored metallic abutments are offered as an alternative and may combine proven mechanical long-term behavior with uncompromised esthetics. It is the purpose of this presentation to review the current understanding of the relationship of abutment color and mucosal thickness and make evidence based clinical recommendations for indication specific abutment selection in implant prosthodontics.

Objectives:
• Assess the correlation between 'thin gingival biotype' and thin peri-implant mucosa.
• Compare the esthetic effectiveness of different colored abutments in sites with thin peri-implant mucosa.
• Define indications for colored abutments depending on soft tissue thickness