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Basic physiological, surgical and restorative principles for successful mini implant treatment

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Small diameter implants are gaining in acceptance for routine dental treatment. These implants may be used in selected patients in selected sites. This lecture covers the basic physiological, surgical and restorative principles for successful mini implant treatment. Not all patients or sites are amenable to successful mini implant treatment. Careful site and patient selection is important. Also, a narrower implant may best serve patients who require stabilization of lower jaw dentures, pre-molar teeth or a missing tooth that was located in a narrow area. A small number of narrower implants are FDA-approved for the purpose of prosthesis stabilization, including the mini dental implant.

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Cone beam CT applications in orthodontics

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Two-dimensional (2D) diagnostic imaging, including traditional radiographs, has been a part of the orthodontic patient record. The limitations in analysis of these imaging modalities are well known and include magnification, geometric distortion, superimposition of structures, projective displacements. In contrast, three-dimensional (3D) imaging allows for the evaluation and analysis of anatomic structures with less limitation and higher accuracy. 3D imaging includes CT, CBCT and MRI. Over the past decade, cone beam CT (CBCT) has increasingly become an important source of 3D volumetric data in clinical orthodontics. To make the transition to a more commonly accepted and reliable use of 3D imaging technologies in orthodontic clinical practice, these technologies need to be further developed. The aim of the present study is to introduce new imaging techniques, determination of strengths and weaknesses of these techniques and their application in diagnosis and orthodontic treatment plan.

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