IMPLANTS
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Using a Laser for Implant Uncovery

By Ricardo Mitrani (/spear-review/author/ricardo-mitrani/) on February 8, 2021 | (/bookmarks/bookmark/

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Traditionally, uncovery of dental implants utilizes a scalpel blade or tissue punch to incise through the soft tissue, which exposes the cover screw of the implant (https://www.speareducation.com/spear-review/category/implants). Unfortunately, this traditional technique can cause post-operative discomfort and bleeding.

One alternative to using a scalpel for uncovery includes electrosurgery, which decreases post-operative discomfort and bleeding by cauterizing tissue. However, it can potentially elevate the temperature around the implant, resulting in bone loss.

A laser is another option for uncovery and is used for procedures such as soft-tissue crown lengthening, troughing, gingivectomy, and esthetic (/spear-review/2013/08/evaluating-facial-esthetics-facial-profile) recontouring. The laser is ideal for implant uncovery and tissue modification around implants because there is little to no bleeding and reduces post-op pain.

This step-by-step visual essay shows how to use a laser for implant uncovery.

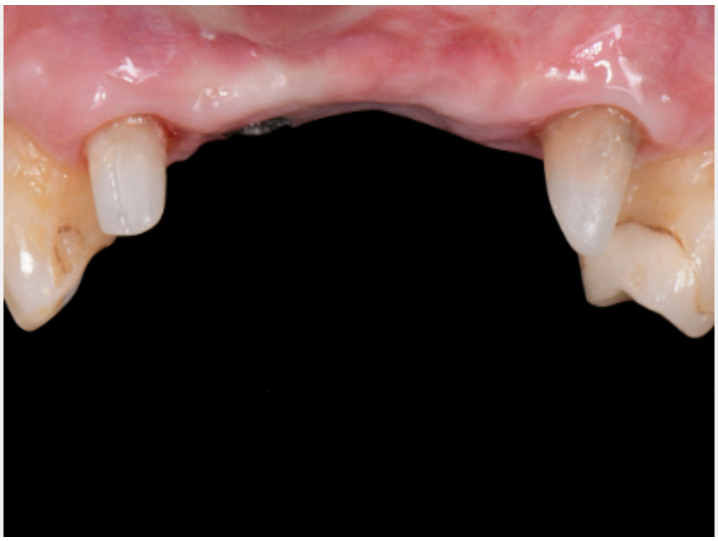

Figure 1: Frontal view of the patient. Teeth #7 and #11 were prepared for crowns and implants were placed in #8 and #10.

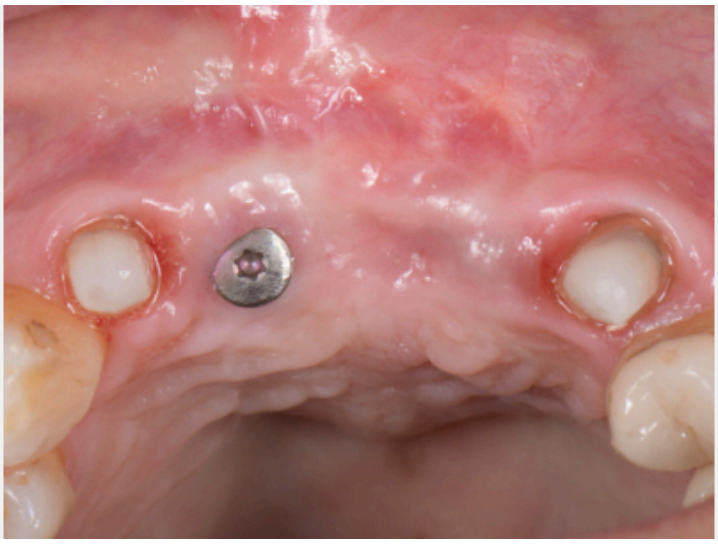

Figure 2: Occlusal view of the patient. Implant on #8 was already uncovered and a healing abutment was in place.

Figure 3: A surgical guide marks the location of the implant so the soft tissue on top of it can be removed.

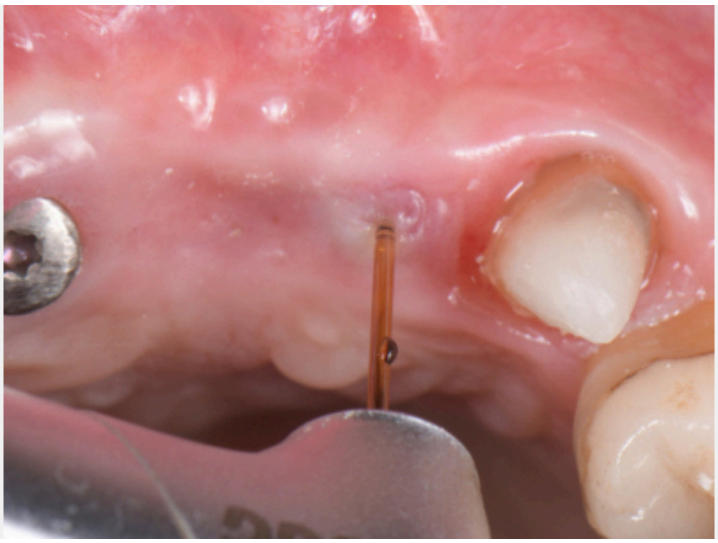

Figure 4: A Waterlase laser with a MZ6 tip is used.

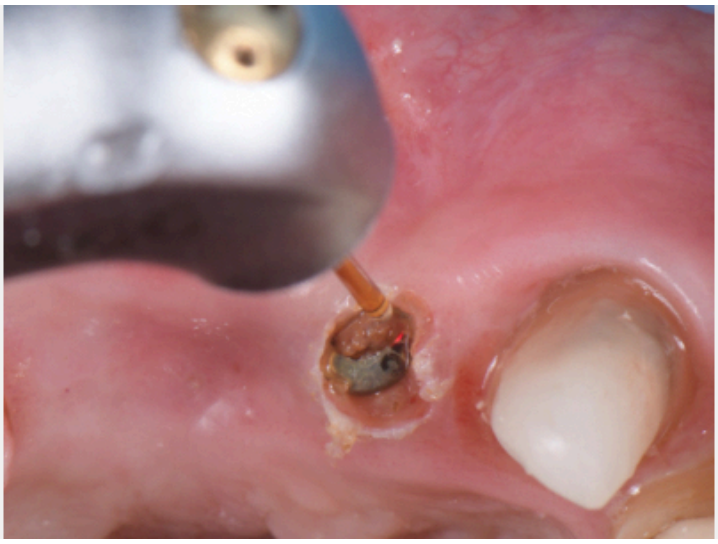

Figure 5: The tip of the laser precisely removes only the necessary soft tissue above the implant to expose the cover screw/healing abutment.

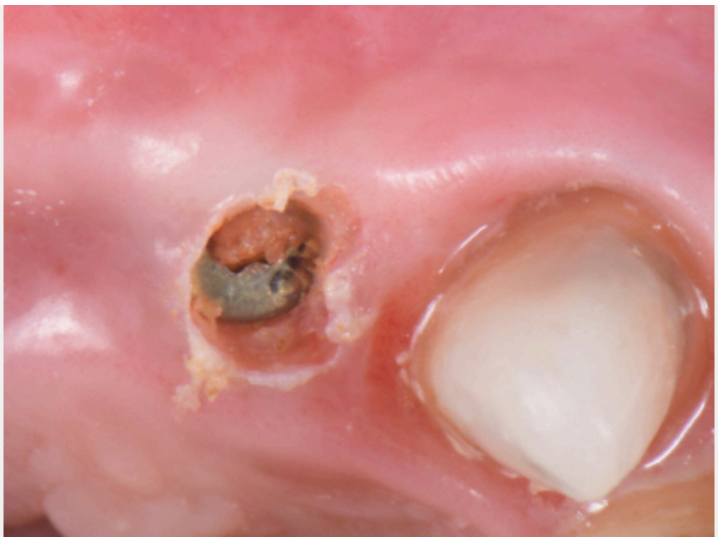

Figure 6: The result after soft tissue is removed.

Figure 7: A view of the area after the healing abutment is removed.

Figure 8: Impression copings are placed immediately following the uncovery to make the provisional impression.

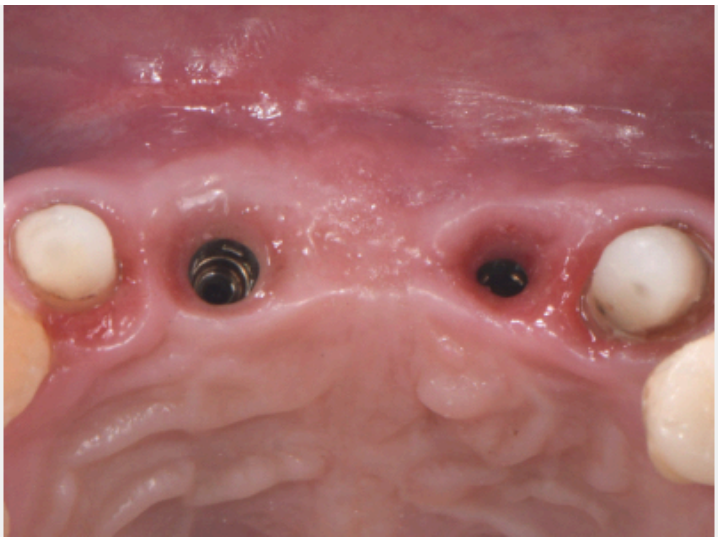

Figure 9: Occlusal post-operative view after seven days.

Figure 10: Seating the provisional implant-supported restoration.

Figure 11: Provisional restoration with composite-filled access screw.

This is a simple, step-by-step technique using the laser for implant uncover. An advantage to using a laser is that the impression can be made immediately after the uncovery and post-operative discomfort and bleeding are minimized.

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