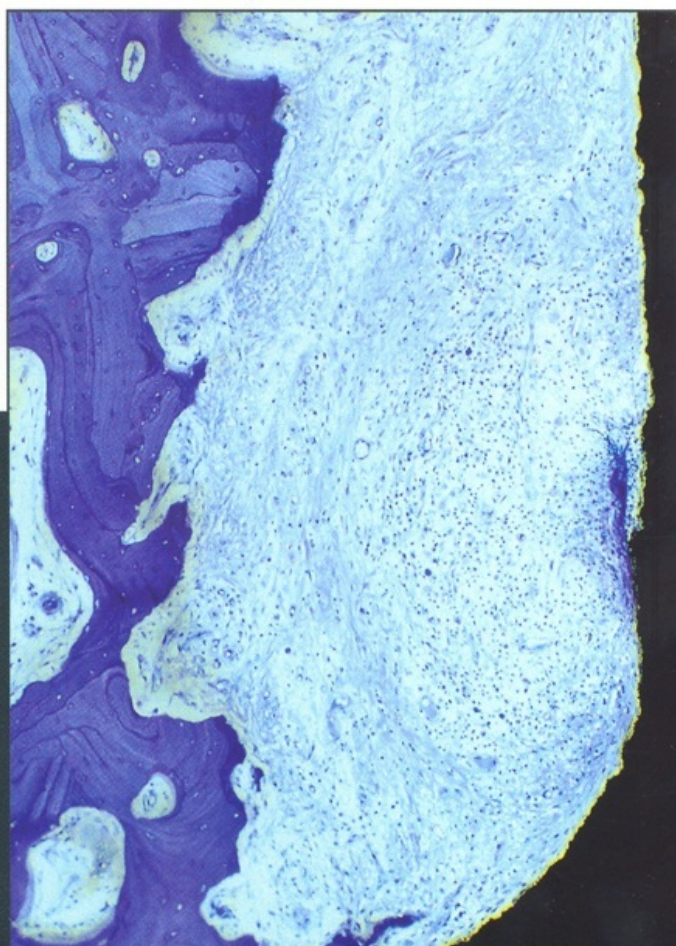


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Immediate loading utilizing guided surgery and implants anchored in the pterygo-maxillary region

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The efficacy of dental implant treatment is well documented. A number of protocols have been developed to simplify the procedures. Never the less, simpler treatment protocols are needed for the rehabilitation of the posterior maxilla, where insufficient residual bone volume, and poor bone density, often make implant placement difficult. The most obvious solution to this problem, -extending distal cantilevers for the positioning of posterior teeth- has been associated with biomechanical problems. Of the various options for implant rehabilitation of the posterior maxilla, sinus grafting is the most popular. However, a graftless approach for the rehabilitation of atrophied ridges, may avoid many of the inconveniences derived from surgical ridge augmentation for future implant installation.

Placement of implants in the pterygomaxillary region has been documented with success, yet accuracy of implant placement in this region is not only difficult but potentially dangerous when done by the clinician free-hand.

A novel type of rehabilitation technique is presented. Utilizing three-dimensional implant planning software for CTscan data, and a flapless implant placement approach, implants anchored in the pterygomaxillary region, may be a safe and valuable treatment modality for the Immediate restoration of the atrophied maxilla in specific situations. Indications, advantages, clinical results, and comparison of this technique with other treatment options will be discussed.