

## 15. Zirconia implants : mainstay or here to stay?

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Oral implants greatly enhance the quality of life for patients undergoing replacement of missing teeth. Titanium has been and still is the material of choice for endosseous dental implants. Although rare, a certain minority of people (<0.6%) may have or develop sensitivity (type iv or i ) to titanium, exhibiting symptoms ranging from skin rashes and implant failure, to non-specific immune suppression.. Zirconia based implants were introduced as an alternative to titanium implants. Zirconia seems to be a suitable option because of its mechanical properties, its hypoallergenic nature and aesthetic potential, especially in patients with a thin gingival biotype and in those who specifically express concern regarding the visibility of a greyish hue at the cervical collar or in patients insistent on having “metal-free” dental therapy. This study was thus, conducted to assess the clinical performance of immediately loaded zirconia implants in the indian population.

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