

34. Management of alveolar ridge insufficiency for predictable aesthetic and functional outcome – a literature search

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Residual alveolar ridge forms the foundation for restoring aesthetics and function in partially edentulous and completely edentulous situations. A careful examination and understanding of the residual ridge contour is of utmost importance in formulating an effective rehabilitation plan. Various fixed and removable options are explored before finalizing the replacement method. Prevention and treatment of alveolar ridge deformities aim at preserving and/or reconstructing soft and hard tissues of the edentulous ridge. Different surgical techniques may be adopted to prevent ridge collapse pre-extraction or to reconstruct defective ridge before tooth replacement. Soft tissue augmentation is generally sufficient to repair the deformity in case of mild to moderate defects. For implant rehabilitation, hard tissue augmentation is indicated. In case of severe defects, a staged or combined approach may be necessary. This presentation is a brief review of tried and tested methods in different rehabilitation protocols involving ridge defects.

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