Influence of presence or absence of keratinized mucosa on the alveolar bony crest level as it relates to different buccal marginal bone thicknesses. An experimental study in dogs

The characteristics of the soft tissue covering the edentulous alveolar crest may influence marginal bone stability around dental implants. Keratinized tissue thickness of <2 mm is considered by some authors as being insufficient for the maintenance of the peri-implant bone marginal level after transmucosal abutment connection (Zigdon & Machtei 2008; Linkevicius et al. 2009; Schrot et al. 2009; Boynuegri et al. 2012; Vervaeke et al. 2012). Evidence from clinical prospective studies (Bengazi et al. 1996; Small & Tarnow 2000; Chang & Wennström 2010; Wennström & Derks 2012) showed that soft tissue recession occurred during the first 6 months of healing, independently of the quality of peri-implant mucosa. One study (Bengazi et al. 1996) showed that areas with <2 mm of keratinized tissue resulted in a larger soft marginal tissue recession. The clinical conditions, however, remained healthy and stable for the whole duration of the study. Due to the absence of a periodontal ligament around implants, the peri-implant mucosal

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