Excellent esthetics and a passive fit are facilitated by using cement-retained prostheses. However, eliminating residual cement is difficult in the subgingival area. Residual cement may cause periimplantitis, gingival swelling, pain, bleeding on probing, and other complications.1 Generally, the margin of an anterior implant crown is placed in the subgingival area for esthetic reasons. Because removing residual cement in subgingival areas is difficult, techniques using abutment replicas or Teflon tape have been introduced to minimize the problem.2-4

The presented technique uses rubber dam to allow only the minimal amount of residual cement to flow into the subgingival area when cement-retained prostheses with subgingival margins are delivered. The procedure does not require any additional laboratory steps. Moreover, it enables the isolation of a prosthesis before the cementation procedure. Since the cement does not flow into the subgingival area, less bleeding may occur when the residual cement is removed, thus causing less discomfort. Furthermore, rubber dam protects the gingiva from direct contact with the cement, thus decreasing chemical irritation.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Cut a sheet of rubber dam (Blossom; Mexpo Intl Inc) into a size approximating the mesiodistal width of

**Figure 1.** A, Make hole at center of rubber dam with explorer and place abutment. B, Connect abutment to fixture inside oral cavity. Do not cover proximal contacts with rubber dam.
the edentulous area and make a hole in the center with a dental explorer (EXDTU17/236; Hu-Friedy Mfg Co).

2. Push the implant abutment (Myplant; RaphaBio Co) through the hole of the rubber dam and place it below the margin of the abutment (Fig. 1A).

3. Connect the customized abutment with rubber dam to the implant fixture and tighten to 30 Ncm. Adjust the occlusal contact of the restoration. After 10 minutes, retighten and seal the hole.5 Make sure not to cover the proximal contacts with the rubber dam (Fig. 1B).

4. Apply a small amount of cement (RelyX Unicem; 3M ESPE) along the margin of the crown6 and place the crown over the abutment. Light polymerize for an initial 1 or 2 seconds according to the manufacturer’s instructions (Fig. 2A).

5. Remove the initially polymerized cement and carefully cut the rubber dam with scissors and remove it (Fig. 2B). After complete polymerization, ensure no cement remains.

REFERENCES


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