

**PREPARATION OF PATIENTS WITH DIABETES MELLITUS AND COMPLETE
EDENTULISM FOR DENTAL IMPLANT PLACEMENT**

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Abstract: This article discusses the clinical features of preparing patients with diabetes mellitus who have complete edentulism for dental implant placement. Special attention is given to the influence of diabetes on oral tissues, bone metabolism, and wound healing processes. The importance of controlling blood glucose levels, conducting comprehensive medical examinations, and eliminating inflammatory conditions in the oral cavity before implant surgery is emphasized. Modern diagnostic methods, including radiographic and three-dimensional imaging techniques, are highlighted as essential tools for evaluating bone structure and planning implant treatment. In addition, the role of oral hygiene, patient education, nutritional regulation, and interdisciplinary cooperation between dentists and medical specialists is discussed. Proper preoperative preparation significantly reduces surgical risks and improves the long-term success of implant-supported prosthetic rehabilitation in diabetic patients with complete tooth loss.

Keywords: diabetes mellitus, complete edentulism, dental implants, patient preparation, oral rehabilitation, glycemic control, osseointegration, alveolar bone resorption, implant surgery, oral hygiene.

The rehabilitation of patients with complete edentulism remains one of the most important tasks in modern dentistry. Tooth loss significantly affects not only mastication and speech but also the patient's aesthetic appearance, psychological condition, and overall quality of life. In recent decades, dental implantology has become a highly effective method for restoring missing teeth and improving oral function. Implant-supported prosthetic rehabilitation provides better stability, comfort, and long-term outcomes compared with traditional removable dentures. However, successful implant placement requires careful assessment of the patient's systemic health, bone condition, and oral environment.

One of the most challenging clinical situations in implant dentistry is the treatment of patients with systemic diseases, particularly diabetes mellitus. Diabetes mellitus is a chronic metabolic disorder characterized by impaired glucose metabolism and persistent hyperglycemia. This condition affects various organs and systems of the body, including the oral cavity. Patients with diabetes often demonstrate delayed wound healing, impaired immune response, increased susceptibility to infections, and changes in bone metabolism. These factors may significantly influence the success of dental implant therapy.

Complete edentulism in diabetic patients presents additional clinical difficulties. Long-term absence of teeth leads to progressive resorption of the alveolar bone, reduction of bone density, and structural changes in the oral tissues. These changes can complicate implant placement and may reduce primary stability of implants. Furthermore, uncontrolled diabetes can increase the risk of peri-implantitis, implant failure, and postoperative complications. Therefore, proper patient preparation and careful treatment planning are essential before performing implant surgery in such individuals. Modern clinical studies indicate that dental implants can be

successfully placed in patients with diabetes if the disease is well controlled and appropriate preoperative measures are taken. Patient preparation includes comprehensive medical evaluation, assessment of glycemic control, improvement of oral hygiene, elimination of inflammatory processes in the oral cavity, and selection of appropriate surgical and prosthetic protocols. Collaboration between dentists, endocrinologists, and other healthcare professionals plays a crucial role in minimizing risks and ensuring favorable treatment outcomes.

Therefore, the preparation of patients with diabetes mellitus and complete edentulism for dental implant placement represents an important clinical and scientific issue. Understanding the systemic and local factors affecting implant success allows clinicians to develop effective preventive and therapeutic strategies. Proper patient preparation not only reduces surgical risks but also significantly increases the predictability and long-term success of implant-supported rehabilitation in this group of patients. Dental implantation in patients with diabetes mellitus who present with complete edentulism requires a comprehensive clinical approach and careful preparation of the patient before surgical intervention. The success of implant treatment largely depends on the control of systemic disease, the condition of oral tissues, bone quality, and the elimination of potential risk factors that may negatively affect osseointegration. Therefore, a multidisciplinary strategy involving dentists, endocrinologists, and other healthcare specialists is essential when planning implant therapy for such patients.

One of the primary stages of preparation is the assessment and stabilization of the patient's general health condition. Diabetes mellitus significantly affects metabolic processes in the body and can lead to impaired microcirculation, decreased immune response, and delayed tissue regeneration. These physiological changes increase the risk of postoperative complications, including infection and poor healing of surgical wounds. For this reason, evaluating glycemic control is a fundamental step before implant placement. Laboratory indicators such as fasting blood glucose level and glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) provide valuable information about the patient's metabolic status. Clinical practice shows that implant surgery can be performed more safely when diabetes is well controlled, typically when HbA1c values remain within acceptable limits.

Another important aspect of preparation involves the detailed examination of the oral cavity. Patients with complete edentulism often experience significant resorption of the alveolar bone due to long-term absence of teeth. Bone loss can lead to insufficient bone volume and density, which are critical factors for achieving primary implant stability. Therefore, radiographic examination, including panoramic radiography and cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT), is widely used to evaluate the anatomical structure of the jaws, determine bone height and width, and identify important anatomical landmarks. If severe bone resorption is detected, additional procedures such as bone grafting or guided bone regeneration may be required before implant placement.

Equally important is the elimination of inflammatory processes in the oral cavity. Diabetic patients are more susceptible to infections and inflammatory diseases due to reduced immune defense mechanisms. Even in the absence of natural teeth, the oral cavity may still contain potential sources of infection, such as inflamed mucosa, fungal infections, or poorly fitting removable dentures that cause chronic irritation. Prior to implant surgery, the dentist must ensure that the oral tissues are healthy and free from pathological changes. Professional oral hygiene procedures, treatment of mucosal lesions, and antifungal or antimicrobial therapy may be necessary to create favorable conditions for surgical intervention.

Oral hygiene education also plays a crucial role in patient preparation. Proper maintenance of oral hygiene significantly reduces the risk of peri-implant diseases and improves long-term implant survival. Patients must receive detailed instructions on maintaining cleanliness of the oral cavity and prosthetic appliances. In diabetic individuals, maintaining optimal hygiene is especially important because bacterial infections can progress more rapidly and lead to severe complications. Nutritional status and lifestyle factors should also be considered during the preparation phase. Balanced nutrition contributes to improved tissue healing and overall systemic stability. Patients should be advised to maintain a controlled diet that supports stable blood glucose levels. Smoking cessation is strongly recommended, as tobacco use negatively affects blood circulation, bone metabolism, and implant integration. The combination of diabetes and smoking significantly increases the risk of implant failure.

Pharmacological management may also be necessary to ensure safe surgical procedures. In certain cases, prophylactic antibiotic therapy is prescribed to reduce the risk of postoperative infection. Additionally, anti-inflammatory medications and antiseptic mouth rinses may be used during the preoperative and postoperative periods. The choice of medication must be carefully coordinated with the patient's medical history and existing systemic therapy for diabetes. Surgical planning is the final stage of patient preparation. Modern digital technologies allow clinicians to perform precise implant placement with minimal trauma to surrounding tissues. Computer-guided implant surgery, three-dimensional planning software, and surgical templates improve the accuracy of implant positioning and reduce surgical risks. Minimally invasive surgical techniques are particularly beneficial for diabetic patients because they decrease tissue trauma and promote faster healing.

In conclusion, successful implant placement in completely edentulous patients with diabetes mellitus requires thorough and systematic preparation. Careful evaluation of systemic health, stabilization of glycemic levels, detailed examination of oral structures, elimination of infections, improvement of oral hygiene, and appropriate surgical planning all contribute to favorable clinical outcomes. When these factors are properly addressed, dental implants can serve as a reliable and effective method for restoring oral function and improving the quality of life in patients suffering from both diabetes and complete tooth loss.

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