

## Early and immediate loading

The early loading protocol refers to the placement of provisional or permanent restoration, prior to the time of conventional loading, but after the time considered immediate loading<sup>1,2</sup>.

A number of clinical studies reporting on Astra Tech implants show good clinical results, with survival rates close to 100%, in early loading situations of single implants<sup>3-6</sup>, and partial or full arch restorations<sup>7-11</sup> whether placed in maxilla or mandible and located in anterior or posterior locations<sup>3,8-17</sup>. Published data from a 1-year study shows 100% survival rate for implants placed in extraction sockets and early loaded<sup>18</sup>. Moreover, results from prospective studies evaluating OsseoSpeed™ implants show maintained marginal bone levels with a mean marginal bone loss below 0.3 mm after three years of loading<sup>15,16</sup>.

Immediate loading refers to situations where implant placement and loading take place at the same visit or within 48 hours<sup>1,2</sup>. Immediate loading offers many potential advantages, such as reduced number of surgical procedures and an esthetic solution within 48 hours.

Several clinical studies with the Astra Tech Implant System™ show safe and predictable results when using a one-stage surgical protocol followed by immediate loading<sup>19-31</sup>. The studies cover implants placed in different regions and indications: mandible and maxilla<sup>19-22,30</sup>, atrophic maxilla<sup>23,24</sup>, single-tooth restorations<sup>19,22,26</sup>, total fixed prostheses<sup>20,21,25,27,29</sup>, and immediate installation in extraction sockets<sup>31</sup>. Maintained marginal bone levels around OsseoSpeed implants, when applying immediate functional loading using different surgical techniques, have been confirmed in a prospective, randomized, controlled clinical study<sup>26</sup>.

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Reprints can be ordered from references marked with ID No.

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