

## Early and immediate loading

The early loading protocol refers to the placement of a 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 shows good clinical results, with survival rates close to 100%, in early loading situations of single implants<sup>3-7</sup>, and partial or full arch restorations<sup>8-13</sup> whether placed in maxilla or mandible and located in anterior or posterior locations<sup>3, 5, 9-11, 13-18</sup>. Published data from a 1-year study shows 100% survival rate for implants placed in extraction sockets and early loaded<sup>19</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>16,17</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>20-35</sup>. The studies cover implants placed in different regions and indications: mandible and maxilla<sup>22-24, 30, 35</sup>, atrophic maxilla<sup>21, 25</sup>, single-tooth restorations<sup>22, 26, 35, 36</sup>, total fixed prostheses<sup>20, 23, 24, 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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