



Ask the Lab

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Planning for Savings: Implant Case Tips

Q: Steve, how can I save on my implant lab fees?

A: Eliminating stock implant impression components made of metal or plastic, whenever possible, has proven to save both time and money. In the attached photos notice this is a stock abutment that has slight preparation to it. This could be prepped by the lab or by the doctor...it does not matter. The main idea is to hand-tightened the abutment onto the implant. Take a PA to verify it is seated completely, then the screw access hole is blocked out, a standard C&B impression taken and model poured (Photo# 1). The abutment is attached to an analog and is used as the master die (Photos# 2, 3, 4). No problematic metal or plastic impressing posts or cylinders were used. There are no implant charges with this technique. The homogeneous impression, unbroken by plastic or metal parts, provides for a more accurate impression dimensionally at contacts, occlusion and abutment orientation. There may be a small charge for any further adjustments required to the abutment.

In the case of a solid abutment that is preplaced and torqued in by the surgeon, with or without preparation, a solid abutment analog serves as the master die in the lab. Again take a standard C&B impression and send an analog to the lab for the master die. There will be no implant charges here either (Photo #5).

In the case of needing custom abutments then, yes, a fixture level impression must be taken with METAL, Open Tray Type Impressions Posts. Again, you must have a PA verification of complete seating of the impression posts before impressing. Lab fabricated custom abutments are returned for a standard C&B impression. The new custom abutments are hand tightened in the mouth and a PA is taken to verify complete seating. Take the standard C&B impression of the abutments in place. Remove the abutments and then the lab uses these for the master dies. Suggest any minor adjustments you would like for angulation or margin location at this time. The adjustments and final restoration are made at the lab. The custom abutments are returned to you to be torqued in before the final delivery of the restoration. Statistically we are much more accurate with contacts and occlusion with this technique and there are no implant charges for the final restoration. Implant charges apply for the custom abutments only.

When we use these techniques with complete polymerization of the impression material before removal from the mouth we are 100% accurate with contacts and occlusion in this lab.

- Please share this with your surgeon.

