Inward-Inclined Implant Platform for the Amplified Platform-Switching Concept: 18-Month Follow-up Report of a Prospective Randomized Matched-Pair Controlled Trial.

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Purpose: This prospective randomized matched-pair controlled trial aimed to evaluate marginal bone levels and soft tissue alterations at implants restored according to the platform-switching concept with a new inwardinclined platform and compare them with external-hexagon implants. Materials and Methods: Traditional external-hexagon (control group) implants and inward-inclined platform implants (test group), all with the same implant body geometry and 13 mm in length, were inserted in a standardized manner in the posterior maxilla of 40 patients. Radiographic bone levels were measured by two independent examiners after 6, 12, and 18 months of prosthetic loading. Buccal soft tissue height was measured at the time of abutment connection and 18 months later. Results: After 18 months of loading, all 80 implants were clinically osseointegrated in the 40 participating patients. Radiographic evaluation showed mean bone losses of 0.5 ± 0.1 mm (range, 0.3 to 0.7 mm) and 1.6 ± 0.3 mm (range, 1.1 to 2.2 mm) for test and control implants, respectively. Soft tissue height showed a significant mean decrease of 2.4 mm in the control group, compared to 0.6 mm around the test implants. Conclusions: After 18 months, significantly greater bone loss was observed at implants restored according to the conventional external-hexagon protocol compared to the platform-switching concept. In addition, decreased soft tissue height was associated with the external-hexagon implants versus the platformswitched implants.