Abstract: Aim & Introduction: Restorative therapy performed on implant(s) placed in a fully healed and non-compromised alveolar ridge, has high clinical success and survival rates. Currently, however, implants are also being placed in (1) sites with ridge defects of various dimensions, (2) fresh extraction sockets, (3) the area of the maxillary sinus, etc.

Content: In the optimal case, the clinician will have time to plan for the restorative therapy (including the use of implants) prior to the extraction of one or several teeth. In this planning, a decision must be made whether the implant(s) should be placed immediately after the tooth extraction(s) or if a certain number of weeks (or months) of healing of the soft and hard tissues of the alveolar ridge should be allowed prior to implant installation.

Conclusions: In situations where teeth are to be replaced with implants, various factors govern the decision regarding the optimal time point for implantation following tooth extraction. Of special importance are the overall objective of the treatment, the location of the tooth within the oral cavity, the anatomy of the bone and the soft tissue at the site, and the adaptive changes of the alveolar ridge following tooth extraction.