

ACCURACY OF INTRAORAL SCANNING OF IMPLANT LEVEL IMPRESSION TECHNIQUE VERSUS ABUTMENT LEVEL IMPRESSION IN IMPLANT MANDIBULAR SUPPORTED OVERDENTURE. IN-VITRO STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Intraoral scanning has recently been investigated showing high accuracy in complete implant supported cases. The aim of this in vitro study was to compare the accuracy of intraoral scanning techniques for implant level impression versus abutment level impression techniques in patients with mandibular supported overdenture.

Methods: Ready-made scannable foam cast of completely edentulous mandible was scanned using the extraoral scanner representing an edentulous mandible where four implant were placed. This cast was used as the control group; which was used to fabricate one cast with the implant level impression technique and the other to fabricate cast with abutment level impression technique as interventions. For both interventions; Digital intraoral scans (DIOS) were made after connecting implant level scan bodies to the master cast and STL files were exported to be used in the superimposition by a MEDIT COMPARE software for determining the accuracy of both techniques.

Results: There was a statistically significant difference between (Implant level) and (Abutment level) where ($p=0.008$).

Conclusion: The implant level impression technique is more accurate than the abutment level impression technique when using Digital intraoral scanning.

KEYWORDS: Dimensional Measurement Accuracies, Implant-Supported Dental Prosthesis, Dental Impression Technic, Digital Technologies

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INTRODUCTION

Advanced innovation within the prosthetic dental field has been greatly developed, were ,it requires the need of more created scanners, intraoral scan bodies (ISB)s ,computer software, milling machines,and advanced ceramic materials¹⁻⁵.

Nowadays ; within this digital era we are been through, facilitating the fabrication of crowns and bridges, restoration of missing teeth, planning, and prosthetically driven implant placement has took place.⁶⁻⁸ These digital techniques showed a highly reliable results in contrast with the previously used conventional techniques which gives more risk to human and technical errors^{9,10}.

Although several aspects affecting the accuracy when taking a digital impression, such as implant position, scanning strategy, light intensity, and arch length, may be responsible for the problems with complete arch implant prosthesis scanning regarding the passive fit¹¹⁻¹⁸.

Additionally, the IOS has difficulty identifying similar intraoral scan bodies and pinpointing their sites when scanning several implants.^{19,20} Additionally, it's critical to collect reliable digital images from patients who lack teeth. Lack of reference points between point clouds can also lead to distorted images.

The stitched images that are produced may also contain a variety of faults, and the software may identify the main portions of the scan as trash and usually remove them²¹⁻²³.

The outcome of any prosthodontic rehabilitation depends largely on the impression process. Splinting of the impression copings, implant angulation, the form and rigidity of impression trays, the quantity of implants, and the impression materials employed all have a significant impact on the accuracy of implant impressions. The splinting and polymerization shrinkage of the employed impression material are the most important elements when taking impressions for numerous implants, especially for four or more implants on the dental arch²⁴.

The accuracy of the impression will be impacted by the number of implants, according to numerous articles, if there are more than 2 or 3 implants. For prostheses to work successfully, implant placement must be done with a high degree of accuracy. This can be accomplished by using a surgical guide which, at the time of surgery, fits on to the existing dentition or on to the edentulous span and offers adequate information regarding implant placement. Additionally, it helps with the accurate surgical positioning and angulation of dental implants, making it possible for a predictable and safe minimally invasive operation²⁵.

Accuracy, in accordance with ISO standards, is a combination of precision and trueness. Precision is the consistency of measurements within a certain group, which increases the predictability of the outcomes. But trueness refers to how closely these measurements correspond with reality.^{26,27}

The present in vitro study compares the accuracy of impression techniques in terms of trueness and precision of these methods of four placed mandibular dummy implants by using Geomagic Software in recording the accuracy of three casts and superimposing the two implant impression casts and compare them to the original cast.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This invitro study was targeting mandibular edentulous ridges as a population, with two interventions; intervention 1 represented as Implant level impression while intervention 2 represented as abutment level impression. Comparator was a ready foam cast received 4 implants and scanned with an extraoral scanner. Accuracy of both groups was measured and assessed. 10 scans were made for each group.

After ethical approval from Research ethics committee faculty of dentistry, Cairo University was given with number 37523; all study settings were conducted in the Artificial intelligence and digital dentistry center, Faculty of Dentistry, Cairo University.

Reference cast preparation

Ready-made scannable foam cast of completely edentulous mandible was scanned using the extraoral scanner inEos X5 blue light scanner (**CEREC inLab, Sirona Dental Systems, Germany**) to obtain an STL (standard tessellation language) saved for later.

Then this foam scannable cast was imaged with CBCT (cone beam CT) by placing the cast within the machine platform as recommended by the manufacture (**PLANMECA Pro max 3D mid CBCT machine**) obtaining a DICOM file saved for later.

The STL file of the foam cast obtained from the extra oral scanning was exported to Exocad software (**Exocad GmbH CAD/CAM software**) for denture designing using the denture design module. Virtual teeth were selected with the surrounding denture borders and saved for later as an STL file.

The DICOM file of CBCT imaging and the STL file of the designed denture were all imported into the planning software (**Blue sky Bio,LLC. planning software**) for surgical guide fabrication which was printed by using CHITUBOX V1.7.0 software (**Chitubox V1.7.0 software CBD-Tech, Chinese**) by a 3D printer (**Phrozen Sonic Mini 4K, 3D printer**) using a clear resin (**Proshape Surgical Guide, Resin Type**).

The four metal sleeves were inserted into their position in the guide. The guide was placed on the foam cast for checking stability and complete seating. Drilling for the 4 implants was done using standard sequential drills in the foam cast guided by the computer guide stent according to the predetermined positions. Using Neobiotech Implant kit (**Neobiotech, Implant kit, korea**). Implants used were 3.5 mm according to the ridge width while the implant length was chosen to be 11.5 for the anterior implants and 10 mm for posterior implants. (**Neobiotech IS, Implant, korea**).

The drill holes were irrigated with water to remove any foam debris that may prevent implant from complete seating. The dummy implants (**Neobiotech IS, Implant, korea**) were placed accurate in the planned

Four scan bodies (**Neo Biotech IS scan body, Korea**) were tightened to the four implants with a torque wrench to 15 N/cm, the model was then scanned with Medit i700 wired intraoral scanner (IOS) with new STL file obtained named "control group". The obtained STL file was our Reference model to which we compared both groups of interventions.

Intervention's casts fabrication

Intervention 1: Implant Level Impression Technique (Group 1):

In order to obtain the cast model for group 1 (implant level impression); four open tray transfer abutments replaced the scan bodies in the reference model were connected and tightened on the four dummy implants reaching 35NCM torque as recommended by the manufacture, then dental floss (**Oral B floss Satin Dental Tape, Irland**) strengthened with duralay (**Duralay GC AMERICA INC.3737, ALSIP IL 60803 USA**) was used for transfers splinting during impression making.

A special tray with widened four openings corresponding to the implants position was used to make an open tray impression (Implant level impression which was taken using poly-vinyl siloxane rubber impression material (**Zetaplus. C-silicone putty. Zhermack Company – Italy**).

After complete setting of the impression, the splinted implant transfers were unscrewed to be picked up into the impression. Four analogues were screwed into the four embedded open transfers, tissue mimic was placed and impression was poured with type IV gypsum (**Type 4, Gc Fujirock, Japan**). The obtained cast represented cast model for group 1.

Intervention 2: Abutment Level Impression (Group 2):

Multi-unit Abutments was tightened on the dummy implants (neobiotech implant IS, Korea) reaching 35Ncm torque as recommended by the manufacture. Followed by tightening four multiunit open transfer for making the impression as the impression sequence made with group 1. The obtained cast represented the model cast for group 2 (abutment level impression).

Scanning for the intervention's models

The Two final stone cast models (group 1 and group 2) were now ready for scanning and deviation analysis. Four scan bodies were tightened to a 20 N/cm on both stone casts (group 1 and 2) and were scanned using an intraoral scanner (Medit i700 wired intraoral scanner, IOS) to obtain an STL file for each group. As Fig 1 and 2.



Fig. (1) Scan bodies on cast ready for scan



Fig. (2) Medit IOS i700 wired

The scans of both final stone casts was performed using the same procedure and the same parameters as the control group scan. After completing the scan, the scan data was evaluated for any defective areas until it was free from missing data or holes at that time the scanning procedure was considered complete.

Superimposition of both impression techniques to the original cast:

Stl files for each cast (control, implant level cast and abutment level cast) were imported into the Medit design app feature for superimposition.

In the Medit link software a file was created for each group by its name, as implant level /abutment level superimposition. In the assigned file, the Medit design app feature was used to perform superimposition. Once the STL file formats for each group were imported into the Medit design software, superimposition of the control cast scan and each individual scan for implant level and abutment level was made.

Medit for clinics software was used, and the color-coded deviation map was available using the Medit Design app. The control group scan was selected as reference scan and the other two scans implant and abutment level were selected as target scan; each one in its turn.

Medit design software was used to visualize the distribution of deviation. This allowed the interpretation of 3D deviation into 2D color-coded maps.

A color-coded map for accuracy was visualized where each color in the color map translated into a specific numerical value. The color maps indicated the displacements between overlapped structures. The same colorimetric parameters were set for both groups where; the maximum deviation ranged from 1000 μ m to -1000 μ m for better fit accuracy between the overlapped scans.

Trueness and precision can be evaluated through measuring the accuracy where; trueness refers to the deviation of virtual data obtained to the actual

dimensions of the reference measurements, while precision is how the measurements are being repeatable (Fig 3 and 4).

All the data were collected and tabulated in microns to be statistically analyzed to determine degree of deviation and accuracy of both impression technique implant level and abutment level.

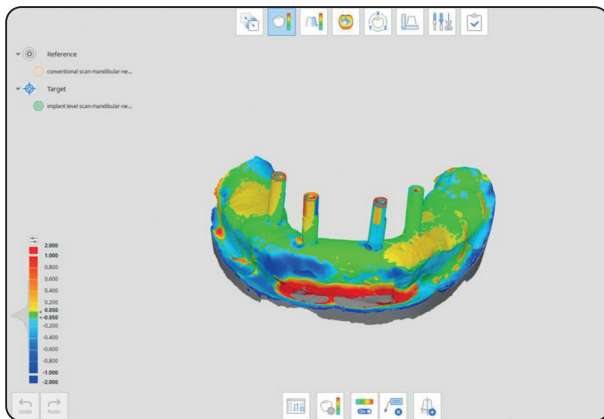


Fig. (3) Implant level impression superimposed

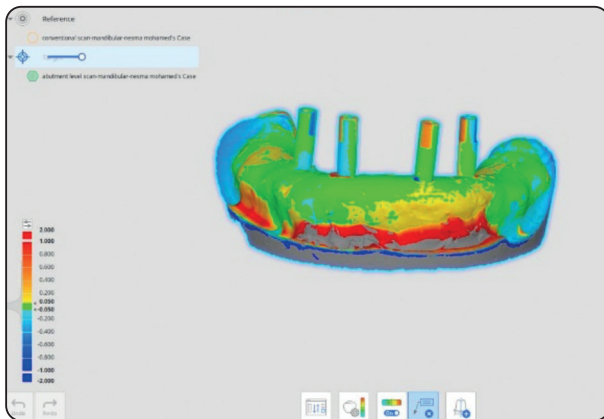


Fig. (4) Abutment level impression superimposed

RESULTS

The mean and standard deviation values were calculated for each group in each test. Data were explored for normality using Kolmogorov-Smirnov and ShapiroWilk tests where data showed parametric (normal) distribution.

Independent sample t-test was used to compare between two groups in non-related samples.

The significance level was set at $P \leq 0.05$. Statistical analysis was performed with IBM® SPSS® Statistics Version 20 for Windows

Accuracy assessment:

There was a statistically significant difference between (Implant level) and (Abutment level) where ($p=0.008$) where the highest mean value of deviation from control group impressions was found in Abutment level impression technique (Less accurate), while the lowest mean value of deviation from control group impressions was found in Implant level impression technique (More accurate). As seen in fig 5.

TABLE (1): The mean, standard deviation (SD) values of accuracy of different groups.

Variables	Accuracy	
	Mean	SD
Implant level	0.221	0.022
Abutment level	0.244	0.011
<i>p-value</i>	0.008*	

Means with different letters in the same column indicate significant difference. *; significant ($p<0.05$) ns; non-significant ($p>0.05$)

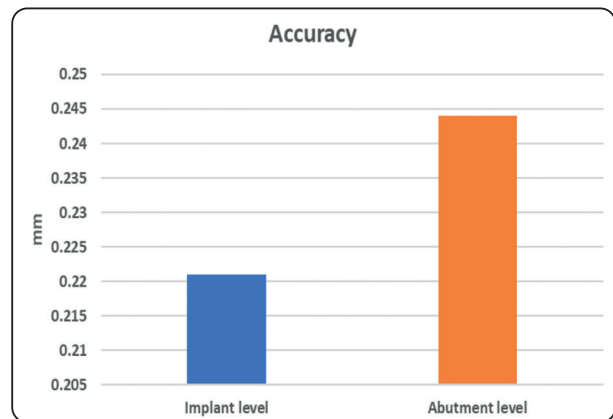


Fig. (5) Bar chart representing accuracy for different groups

DISCUSSION

Accuracy is defined by “trueness” and “precision”, as described in the ISO 5725 standard. Trueness and precision are terms used to describe the accuracy of measurement method. Trueness term refers to the closeness of agreements between arithmetic mean of large number of test result and true or accepted reference value. While precision term refers to closeness of agreements between test results.²⁸

Several factors can influence impression accuracy which may project in the passivity of the prosthesis including implant angulation, implant depth, implant connection type, and inter-implant distance.^{29,30.}

In earlier studies, these aspects were highlighted using conventional impressions. However, while looking at scans of digital impressions, other paths to results can be discovered. Because there is no concern with impression material deformation during removal or movement of impression transfer using this procedure, implant angulation should not have an impact on the fidelity of digital imprints.^{31,32}

Using digital scanning and specialized software for superimposition of the generated STL files, one effective method for determining and contrasting precision and trueness at the tiny scale is digital scanning.

Inconstancy of studies related to the accuracy of digital impression regarding trueness and precessions ranges from studies found that digital impressions had the same level of trueness or precision as conventional impressions^{34,35}

Other studies revealed that the conventional impressions showed better results related to trueness or precision when compared to the digital impressions^{36,37}

While others in agreement with our study found that; digital impressions had better trueness or precision when compared to conventional impressions.³⁸⁻⁴⁰

These discrepancies between the researches could be attributed to variations in experimental conditions, impression range, data processing techniques, choice of outcome data, or IOS capability.

Results of this study came in accordance with the results of the previous study revealed that implant level impression technique showed less deviation (more accurate) than the abutment level impression technique which may be attributed to the lack of parallelism between the implants which leads to undesirable path of impression withdrawal which is considered a cause of impression distortion.⁴¹

This may also be explained by the IO's directional error when bent as it moves toward a new plane, which makes it difficult to catch scan bodies near the curve. In contrast to photogrammetry systems, which are fixed in a particular position and at a predetermined standardized distance are not influenced by motion or camera's inclination, errors may depend less on implant angulation and more on the arch shape and how the scanner is oriented to capture the needed image.⁴²

In a previous research, Alikhasi et al. evaluated the dimensional accuracy of impression techniques on levels of implant and abutment along with its effect on lack of marginal integrity. They concluded that the impression method affects its accuracy. Moreover, implant level methods are more accurate for creating a 3D implant position in the impression made with polyether impression material.⁴³

A systematic review by Kong et al. (2022) compared the accuracy of digital and conventional impression for full arches. After analyzing 22 studies the results showed 0.9 mm 3D deviation and 0.1 mm difference in precision, between digital and conventional full arch impressions; where the majority of the literature that is examined almost always comes to the conclusion that IOS can produce full arch impression accuracy to some extent. The employment of digital impression techniques in full arch scanning of partially and completely

edentulous instances is not, however, neutralized by the large accuracy differences between conventional and digital or between the reference and test scans by IOS.⁴⁴

A systematic review by Carneiro Pereira Ana Larisse et al. concluded that intraoral scanning technique Promoting physical paths that join the digitization bodies can increase the accuracy of transferring the position of the implants), environmental conditions.¹³

Despite the important results of this study, limitations exist. Correlation between the results of this in vitro study and clinical status should be done carefully as there are contributing factors that, although standardized, are different in the oral setting. This includes varying light reflectivity, presence of saliva, and limited accessibility during the scan..

CONCLUSION

Within the limitations of this in vitro study, it can be concluded that implant level impression technique is more accurate than abutment level impression technique when using an intraoral scanner when compared to the conventional impression technique.

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