This is an alternative to fabricating conventional surgical guides that I came across at the Chicago Midwinter Meeting. The MD Guide provides an alternative method to fabricating a conventional surgical guide. As we know, using some sort of a surgical guide when placing implants to ensure they are properly positioned can be helpful as a millimeter can make a real difference in the final implant crown fabrication. What is clinically useful about the MD Guide is that you are not changing your current surgical protocol or dental implant system. The MD Guide just allows you to drill a pilot hole more accurately in terms of mesiodistal spacing and parallelism. Instead of using the pilot drill with your implant system, the MD Guide can be used. It is a pilot drill and an alternative surgical guide combined.

You are still drilling “freehand” but with more accuracy. The MD Guide Intro Kit contains five drilling guides and five nondrilling guides (or virtual teeth) that are specifically sized to match the mesiodistal dimension of the future restoration. The drilling guides and nondrilling guides are sized at diameters of 6.0 mm, 7.5 mm, 9.0 mm, 10.5 mm, and 12.0 mm. The drill length is 7.5 mm, and has a diameter of 2.0 mm for all the drilling guides. Once the correct drilling guide size is selected, the cylinder is placed against the adjacent tooth to create a pilot hole. Once the first pilot hole is made, the drilling guide is replaced with the same-sized virtual tooth. For example, if you used a 7.5-mm drill, then place the 7.5-mm virtual tooth in its place upon completion of drilling a pilot hole. If an additional implant is being placed, you would continue the steps. But instead of estimating a second pilot hole, you will now align the drilling guide cylinder against the virtual tooth that was placed previously as opposed to against the actual tooth as was the case with the first pilot hole. The MD Guide system provides a simple solution to more accurate mesiodistal spacing and parallelism, no matter what implant system or brand you may be using. It is not changing current surgical protocol, but just helping make it more accurate. The MD Guide minimizes the stress of misaligned or malpositioned implants, and can save time and money as compared to conventional surgical guides. Finally, it will allow you to work efficiently and accurately in dental implant positioning mesially and distally. The system is simple to understand, and can be beneficial no matter your experience level or in-office technology used.

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