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Article

One-Year Stability Comparison of Implants with Alumina Sandblasting and Acid Etching Surface Treatment: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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Abstract: Objectives: This retrospective cohort study aimed to compare and evaluate the 1-year stability of two Korean implant brands, Osstem and Toplan, both treated with alumina sandblasting and acid etching (SA) surface modification. **Methods:** This retrospective analysis evaluated patients with American Society of Anesthesiologists grade I or II, >20 years, with alveolar bone volume suitable for implant placement, who received immediate or delayed placement after extraction, and with Osstem (n=57) or Toplan (n=87) implant. The insertion torque value (ITV) measured on the day of implant placement and the implant stability quotient (ISQ) measured on the day of implant placement, 1 month post-surgery, and 2–3 months after implantation were analysed. **Results:** Both implants had significantly increased ISQs over time, and the ISQs did not significantly differ between Osstem and Toplan implants at any time point. Osstem implants showed significantly higher ISQs in D2 than in D3 bone, and in the mandible than in the maxilla at all time points. Toplan implants with diameter >4.0 mm showed higher initial ISQs. Osstem implants showed significant correlation between ITV and ISQ on the day of placement ($r=0.349$, $p<0.01$), but not at later time points. For Toplan implants, no significant correlation was confirmed between ITV and ISQ at any time point. At 1-year follow-up, both implants were still providing functional service. **Conclusion:** Osstem and Toplan implants with SA surface treatment showed a high level of stability for 1 year, and no significant difference in stability was observed between the two implants. Both implants are considered clinically reliable products.

Keywords: dental implants; implant stability quotient; insertion torque value

1. Introduction

Dental implants are widely used to restore the function and aesthetics of lost teeth [1]. Implant success is determined by several factors. Implant shape, including length, diameter, shape, bone quality, and surgical method, can significantly impact implant success [2–4]. Therefore, to avoid implant failure, various parameters such as implant shape, patient bone quality, and surgical method should be considered. In addition, efforts are being made to enhance the surface area and hydrophilic surface treatments to improve the stability of the implants [5,6].

Surface treatment of an implant by roughening the surface of the implant using alumina and then forming stable irregularities through acid etching (SA) promotes bone fusion [6]. Implants with rough surfaces have larger surface areas than those with other processed surfaces, showing higher bone fusion and faster bone healing [7,8].

One method to evaluate the primary stability of an implant is to measure the insertion torque value (ITV; N/cm), which is an effective parameter of the degree of stability during implantation [9]. However, evaluating the overall bone fusion process of an implant is inaccurate, and whether there is a threshold level of ITV that can predict a successful implant is unclear [10].

One representative method of evaluating implant stability is the implant stability quotient (ISQ). The ISQ is an index used to evaluate the stiffness and deformation of an implant and a bone complex and measures the stability of an implant through resonance frequency analysis, and a higher ISQ score indicates higher stability. The ISQ device is easy to use in clinical practice and has high reliability; therefore, it is widely used to evaluate the stability of an implant [4,11].

This study aimed to evaluate the 1-year stability of two implant systems treated with an SA surface. The hypothesis was that there would be no significant difference in the 1-year stability between the two systems.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Design and Patient Data Collection

We retrospectively reviewed the medical data of patients who visited the G Dental Clinic in Dangjin, Chungcheongnam-do, between January 2022 and July 2023. G*Power version 3.1.9.7 (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany) confirmed a minimum sample size of 128, with an effect size=0.25, α =0.05, and power=0.80. Data collection was conducted in December 2023 and January 2024.

The inclusion criteria were healthy patients aged >20 years, with American Society of Anesthesiologists grade I or II, with occlusal relationship with normal occlusal in one tooth, with alveolar bone volume suitable for implant placement, and who underwent delayed (at least 2 months) implant placement after extraction or immediate implant placement after extraction. Those who were smoking more than 10 cigarettes per day, with systemic disease that may affect bone metabolism, with periodontal disease with confirmed overall swelling and bleeding in the gingiva, who were pregnant, who were using an immunosuppressant, who were undergoing head and neck radiotherapy, with uncontrolled diabetes, with contraindications for simple oral surgery, and who did not meet the follow-up baseline criteria were excluded. Only cases performed by a single dentist with >15 years of clinical experience were included in this study. Based on these criteria, 97 patients (average age, 53.74±11.87 years) were selected. Finally, 57 Osstem implants (Osstem TS III; Osstem Implant Co., Ltd, Seoul, South Korea) and 87 Toplan implants (Toplan T01; Toplan Co., Ltd, Seoul, South Korea) in the oral cavity were selected for the analysis.

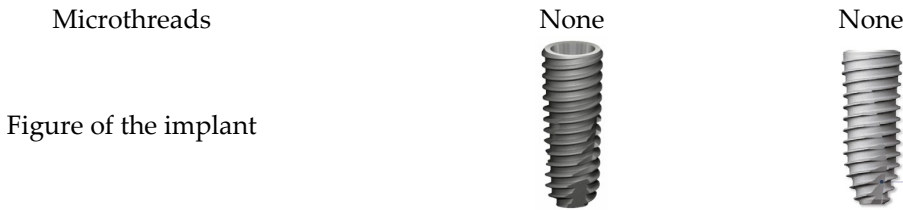
Implants were classified according to the sex of the study participants, alveolar bone quality, implant placement location, implant placement timing, diameter, and length. Bone quality was classified as D1 to D4, according to Misch's classification method [12]. Implant lengths were 7.0 to 11.5 mm for Osstem and 7.0 to 12.0 mm for Toplan, and implant diameters were 4.0 to 5.0 mm for Osstem and 3.6 to 5.0 mm for Toplan (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of the characteristics of the Osstem and Toplan implants used in this study.

Characteristics	Osstem implant	Toplan implant
Manufacturer	Osstem Implant Co., Ltd	Toplan Co., Ltd
Model name	Osstem TS III	Toplan T01
Body shape	1.5° taper	Taper-straight-taper
Thread shape	Triangular thread	Triangular thread
Pitch height (mm)	0.8 (double)	0.9 (double)
Thread height (mm)	0.45	0.4

Table 1. Cont.

Characteristics	Osstem implant	Toplan implant
Implant–abutment interface	Internal hex	Internal hex
Inclination angle of the thread flank (°)	40	30
Surface treatment	SA	SA



SA, sandblasting with alumina and acid etching. It was written based on the following: diameter, 4.0; length, 10 mm.

2.2. Implant Placement: Surgical Protocol

The surgical plan was established using cone beam computed tomography before the implant procedure. The length of the implant was conditioned by the height of the base of the bone, and the diameter of the implant was determined according to the width of the alveolar process. All surgeries were performed in the operating room using a completely aseptic protocol with infection control. The patient gargled with 10 mL of an oral cleaner containing 0.2% chlorhexidine for 1 minute before surgery, and extracorporeal disinfection was performed using cotton balls with povidone iodine and chlorhexidine.

The surgical site was anaesthetised with lidocaine hydrochloride with epinephrine injection (1:100,000; Huons Co., Ltd, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea) and articaine with epinephrine injection (1/100,000; Huons Co., Ltd), after which the mucosa-periosteal bone flap was elevated. If a lesion was observed around the tooth, it was removed using a surgical curette. The implant insertion process was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. The implant was placed 1 mm deeper than the bone level (1 mm subcrestal), and the healing abutment was installed after implantation. The patients were given the following medications after implant placement surgery: amoxicillin hydrate 500 mg and loxoprofen sodium hydrate 68.1 mg tid for 7 days, methylprednisolone 4 mg tid for 6 days, and esomeprazole magnesium trihydrate 22.25 mg od for 7 days. Prosthetic restorations were installed only if ISQ ≥ 60 was met 2–3 months after implant surgery.

2.3. Measurement of ITV

ITVs were measured using a torque wrench calibrated to newtons per centimetre at the time of implant placement. All implant insertion procedures were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. The ITVs were recorded as soon as the final location within the bone was reached, and we investigated which of the following sections the ITV of the patient belongs to: <30, 30–40, 40–50, or >50 N/cm.

2.4. Measurement of Implant Stability Quotient

Resonance frequency analysis measurements of implant stability were performed using the ISQ device Osstell™ (Osstell AB, Stampgatan, Göteborg, Sweden), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Implant stability was expressed as ISQ. The ISQs were recorded in triplicate using Smartpeg™ (Osstell AB) fixed to the implant at a manufacturer-recommended torque of 4–6 N/cm. The primary, secondary, and tertiary measurements were performed on the day of implant placement (ISQ t_1), 1 month after placement (ISQ t_2), and 2–3 months after placement (ISQ t_3), respectively. Measurements were obtained twice in the mesiodistal and buccolingual directions of the implant, and the average value was recorded.

2.5. Implant Survival and Failure

Implant survival was defined as an implant that remained in place at the 1-year follow-up appointment and supported the restoration. Implant failure was defined as the removal of dental implants at the 1-year follow-up appointment owing to loss of bone fusion, mobility, persistent pain, fractures, and/or extensive bone loss.

2.6. Statistical Analyses

Normal distribution of ISQs was confirmed using the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. To determine the difference in ISQs between the Osstem and Toplan implants, an independent-samples t-test was performed. Differences in ISQs according to the implantation method, implant diameter, implant length, and bone mass were confirmed using the Kruskal–Wallis and Bonferroni correction post-hoc test or the Mann–Whitney test. Differences according to the number of ISQ measurements were confirmed using Friedman's analysis of variance and Wilcoxon signed-rank post-hoc tests. The correlation between ITV and ISQs was analysed using Spearman's rank correlation. All data analyses were performed with two-sided tests using SPSS version 29.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA), and $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

3. Results

3.1. Classification by ITV

The classifications of the implants according to ITV were the following: Osstem implants: <30 N/cm, $n=3$; $30\text{--}40$ N/cm, $n=38$; $40\text{--}50$ N/cm, $n=14$; >50 N/cm, $n=2$; Toplan implants: <30 N/cm, $n=3$; $30\text{--}40$ N/cm, $n=65$; $40\text{--}50$ N/cm, $n=15$; >50 N/cm, $n=4$ (Table 2).

Table 2. Classification of Osstem and Toplan implants by IVT.

Classification of ITVs	Osstem implant (n=57)	Toplan implant (n=87)
<30 N/cm	3 (5.26)	3 (3.45)
$30\text{--}40$ N/cm	38 (66.67)	65 (74.71)
$40\text{--}50$ N/cm	14 (24.56)	15 (17.24)
>50 N/cm	2 (3.51)	4 (4.60)

Values are presented as n (%). ITV, insertion torque value.

3.2. Comparison of Mean ISQ between Osstem and Toplan Implants

The comparison of the mean ISQs between Osstem and Toplan implants at three time points (implant placement date, 1 month post-surgery, and 2–3 months post-surgery) showed no statistically significant difference at any time point. Both implants showed significant increases in the ISQs over time (Table 3).

Table 3. Comparison of mean ISQ of Osstem and Toplan implants.

Groups	ISQ t_1	ISQ t_2	ISQ t_3	p-value [†]
Osstem implant (n=57)	69.76 ± 12.30	73.74 ± 10.10	78.94 ± 9.12	<0.001
Toplan implant (n=87)	71.13 ± 7.86	74.88 ± 7.35	79.03 ± 5.64	<0.001
p-value [‡]	0.416	0.462	0.944	

Values are presented as mean $\pm$ standard deviation. [†]p-values obtained from repeated-measures analysis of variance. [‡]p-values obtained from independent samples t-test. ISQ t_1 , ISQ t_2 , and ISQ t_3 are the implant stability quotients measured on the day of implant placement, 1 month post-surgery, and 2–3 months post-surgery, respectively.

3.3. Changes in ISQs according to Measurement Timing and Factors

Osstem and Toplan implants differed among ISQ t_1 , ISQ t_2 , and ISQ t_3 in all factors, except for the Osstem implant with a diameter ≤ 4.0 mm ($p=0.002$ or $p<0.001$). Osstem implants differed significantly in terms of bone quality and implant location between the ISQ t_1 and ISQ t_2 groups

($p=0.001$ and $p<0.001$, respectively). Toplan implants differed significantly in ISQ t_1 depending on the diameter ($p=0.021$) (Table 4)

Table 4. Comparison of ISQs by factors and timing of measurement.

n							Osstem implant				p-value †
							ISQ t ₁	ISQ t ₂	ISQ t ₃		
Sex	Man	33	71.00 ^a (64.25, 5.00)	76.00 ^b (69.00, 0.50)	82.00 ^c (77.75, 5.50)	<0.001	71	72.50 ^a (69.00, 6.50)	74.50 ^b (70.00, 0.50)	78.00 ^c (75.00, 2.50)	<0.001
	Woman	24	72.50 ^a (65.50, 79.38)	73.25 ^b (67.50, 2.00)	76.50 ^b (71.63, 5.63)	0.002	16	72.50 ^a (63.63, 9.50)	75.50 ^b (71.25, 0.00)	80.75 ^c (76.75, 5.00)	<0.001
	p-value ‡		0.437	0.903	0.132			0.641	0.507	0.167	
Bone type	D2	30	73.50 ^a (70.38, 80.13)	78.50 ^b (71.50, 83.38)	82.00 ^c (77.88, 86.00)	<0.001	42	74.25 ^a (68.75, 9.50)	77.00 ^b (71.38, 80.50)	80.00 ^c (77.50, 2.13)	<0.001
	D3	27	67.00 ^a (56.50, 74.00)	69.00 ^a (66.00, 78.00)	77.50 ^b (71.00, 85.00)	<0.001	45	72.00 ^a (66.25, 5.00)	72.50 ^b (70.00, 80.00)	77.00 ^c (74.25, 5.75)	<0.001
	p-value ‡		0.001	0.001	0.095			0.159	0.156	0.465	
Implant location	Maxilla	24	64.75 ^a (56.13, 74.00)	69.00 ^a (65.25, 75.75)	76.50 ^b (71.00, 84.13)	<0.001	45	72.00 ^a (68.00, 5.00)	74.00 ^b (70.25, 80.00)	78.00 ^c (74.75, 5.75)	<0.001
	Mandible	33	73.00 ^a (70.00, 79.75)	78.50 ^b (71.50, 82.75)	82.00 ^c (78.75, 86.00)	<0.001	42	74.25 ^a (67.00, 9.50)	75.50 ^b (70.75, 80.50)	79.75 ^c (75.38, 81.63)	<0.001
	p-value ‡		0.001	<0.001	0.027			0.219	0.743	0.643	
Implant placement timing	Immediately implanted	27	71.00 ^a (67.00, 75.00)	76.00 ^b (66.50, 81.00)	80.00 ^c (73.50, 82.50)	<0.001	47	72.50 ^a (68.50, 6.50)	74.50 ^b (71.00, 0.00)	79.00 ^c (75.00, 82.00)	<0.001
	Delayed placement	30	71.00 ^a (63.13, 79.00)	73.50 ^b (68.88, 80.63)	82.50 ^c (77.50, 86.25)	<0.001	40	72.00 ^a (65.63, 6.50)	75.00 ^b (70.00, 2.38)	80.25 ^c (75.00, 84.75)	<0.001
	p-value ‡		0.725	0.949	0.088			0.871	0.821	0.855	
Implant diameter	≤4.0 mm	3	71.00 ^a (60.00, 73.00)	76.00 ^a (43.00, 78.50)	77.00 ^a (42.50, 80.00)	0.717	27	70.00 ^a (62.00, 4.00)	74.00 ^b (69.50, 0.50)	79.50 ^c (75.00, 85.50)	<0.001
	>4.0 mm	54	71.00 ^a (64.88, 77.50)	74.50 ^b (68.88, 81.00)	81.25 ^c (74.00, 86.00)	<0.001	60	74.50 ^a (69.13, 7.25)	75.00 ^b (71.13, 0.00)	78.75 ^c (75.00, 82.38)	<0.001
	p-value ‡		0.579	0.532	0.138			0.021	0.666	0.797	
Implant length	≤10 mm	17	70.00 ^a (63.75, 77.50)	72.00 ^b (69.00, 80.50)	81.00 ^b (73.75, 85.50)	<0.001	32	72.00 ^a (64.25, 75.00)	72.50 ^b (70.00, 79.13)	77.75 ^c (75.00, 81.38)	<0.001
	>10 mm	40	71.25 ^a (65.38, 77.38)	76.00 ^b (68.50, 80.88)	80.50 ^c (74.00, 85.75)	<0.001	55	72.50 ^a (68.50, 77.50)	75.50 ^b (71.00, 80.50)	79.50 ^c (75.00, 85.00)	<0.001
	p-value ‡		0.663	0.972	0.727			0.197	0.137	0.420	

Values are presented as median (min, max). [†]p-value obtained by Friedman's analysis of variance. [‡] p-value obtained by Mann–Whitney test. ^{a,b,c}Different letters indicate significant difference in Friedman's Wilcoxon signed-rank post-analysis. ISQ t_1 , ISQ t_2 , and ISQ t_3 are the implant stability quotients measured on the day of implant placement, 1 month post-surgery, and 2–3 months post-surgery, respectively.

3.4. Correlation between ITV and ISQ

Significant correlations were found between ITV and ISQ t_1 in Osstem implants ($r=0.349$, $p<0.01$), but no correlation was found between ITV and ISQ t_1 in Toplan implants ($r=0.026$, $p>0.05$). In addition, for Osstem implants, significant correlations were found between ISQ t_1 and ISQ t_2 and between ISQ t_2 and ISQ t_3 ($p<0.01$) (Table 5). In Toplan implants, significant correlations were found between ISQ t_1 and ISQ t_2 ($p<0.001$), between ISQ t_1 and ISQ t_3 ($p<0.001$), and between ISQ t_2 and ISQ t_3 ($p<0.001$) (Table 6).

Table 5. Correlation between ITV and ISQ in Osstem implant.

	ITV	ISQ t ₁	ISQ t ₂	ISQ t ₃
ITV	1			
ISQ t ₁	0.349**	1		
ISQ t ₂	0.204	0.666***	1	
ISQ t ₃	-0.190	0.202	0.340**	1

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. Spearman's rank correlation analysis was used. ISQ t₁, ISQ t₂, and ISQ t₃ are the implant stability quotients measured on the day of implant placement, 1 month post-surgery, and 2–3 months post-surgery, respectively.

Table 6. Correlation between ITV and ISQs in Toplan implant.

	ITV	ISQ t ₁	ISQ t ₂	ISQ t ₃
ITV	1			
ISQ t ₁	0.026	1		
ISQ t ₂	-0.011	0.557***	1	
ISQ t ₃	0.075	0.359***	0.781***	1

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. Spearman's rank correlation analysis was used. ISQ t₁, ISQ t₂, and ISQ t₃ are the implant stability quotients measured on the day of implant placement, 1 month post-surgery, and 2–3 months post-surgery, respectively.

4. Discussion

SA surface treatment is an implant surface treatment technology that promotes fusion of the implant and alveolar bone [6]. In previous studies, implants with rough surfaces exhibited high bone fusion and rapid bone healing [7,8]. In this study, we compared and evaluated the stability of two Korean implants that underwent SA surface treatment in order to help consumers make an informed choice.

The primary stability of an implant is the immediate stability obtained upon implantation. It refers to the degree to which an implant is mechanically fixed to the bone and can be measured mainly using ITV and ISQ [9,11]. The initial stability of an implant is important because a higher initial stability leads to better bone adhesion and higher long-term success rate [11]. Therefore, to increase the initial stability of the implant, various variables such as the implant shape, patient bone quality, and surgical method should be considered. In this study, the ITV of Osstem implants showed a correlation with the ISQ during implantation, but there was no significant relationship with the ISQ thereafter. However, the ITV of the Toplan implants did not correlate with the ISQ value at any time point. The ITV has been recognised as a valid parameter for determining implant stability during implantation [11]. Greenstein and Cavallaro [9] reported that the tactile information obtained from surgical twist drills can help select the initial insertion torque to achieve implant stability. However, Lages et al. [13] argued that it is not possible to confirm whether there is a correlation between ITV and ISQ and whether it is an independent and incomparable method. When the results of previous studies and those of the present study are combined, it is believed that there are some limitations in verifying the initial stability through ITVs.

In this study, a significant increase in ISQs over time was observed in both the Osstem and Toplan implants. The Osstem implant had significantly higher ISQ t₁ and ISQ t₂ values in the D2 bone than in the D3 bone and significantly higher ISQs in the mandible than in the maxilla at all time points, suggesting that differences in bone quality and density have an effect on initial implant stability. For Toplan implants, the group with a diameter >4.0 mm had a higher initial ISQ than the group with a diameter ≤4.0 mm. This is consistent with a previous study showing that larger diameters increase the contact area between the bone and the implant, thereby improving primary stability [14].

The secondary stability is the stability at which implants and bones are biologically combined over time and are mainly formed during osseointegration. Osseointegration occurs as bone cells grow

on the surface of the implant and generally proceeds for 1 to 3 months post-surgery [15]. Benic et al. [16] suggested $ISQ \geq 60-65$ and $ITV \geq 20-45$ N/cm as conditions for loading for single implant crown. In this study, both implants showed similar primary stability with Osstem (69.76 ± 12.30) and Toplan (71.13 ± 7.86) based on the ISQ on the day of implantation. In addition, the mean ISQs of the Toplan implants were slightly higher than those of the Osstem implants; however, this difference was not statistically significant, and both implants showed increased ISQs over time. Small differences in ISQs may be caused by minor differences in implant design or surface texture. However, SA surface treatment was consistent in both systems, which is likely a major factor contributing to osseointegration and initial stability. These results suggest that both systems are equivalent in terms of primary stability and are suitable for clinical use.

In addition, neither implant showed radiolucency around the fixture at the 1-year follow-up, and there were no cases of mobility or pain. One year after implantation, the implants were still providing functional services.

This study has limitations. It was difficult to sufficiently control for confounding variables because the study analysed retrospective data, and there were limitations in ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the study data. Therefore, in the future, a prospective study with more samples and additional studies are needed to evaluate the long-term clinical success rate of Korean implants.

5. Conclusions

Both Osstem and Toplan implants subjected to SA surface treatment showed a high level of primary stability when measured using ISQs. The primary stability did not significantly differ between the two implants, which is believed to provide credibility to the early loading and clinical use of both implants.

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Data Availability Statement: The data presented in this study are available upon request from the corresponding author.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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