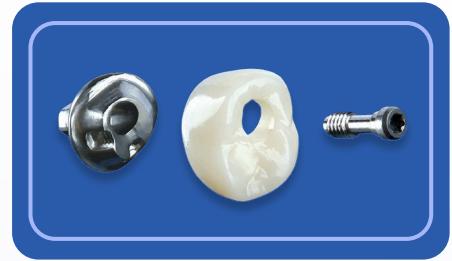


Implant Access Hole Considerations

What Is the Implant Access Hole?

The implant access hole is the channel that allows the clinician to seat and retrieve a screw-retained restoration. Its position is dictated by the implant angulation, not the final crown design.



When Access Hole Position Becomes a Problem



Issue 1 Facial Access (Anterior Zone)

- Screw access emerges on the facial surface
- Results in: Compromised esthetics & Visible restorative material
- Not acceptable in the smile zone

Issue 2 Incisal Edge Access

- Access exits through the incisal edge
- Leads to: Weakened structure, poor esthetic blending & functional concerns over time

Reference: Schoenbaum, T.R., Klokkevold, P.R. (2019). The Implant-Supported Screw-Retained Provisional Prosthesis: Science, Fabrication, and Design. In: Schoenbaum, T. (eds) Implants in the Aesthetic Zone. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-72601-4_6

Why We Transition to Abutment + Crown

When implant access is compromised, an abutment + crown restoration allows full control over the final result:

- No visible access hole → optimal esthetics
- Custom abutment design → corrects angulation and path of insertion
- Ideal margin placement → improved tissue management
- Stronger, uninterrupted crown structure

This approach ensures the restoration is designed based on ideal tooth position, not limited by implant angulation.

Clinical Takeaway

- Favorable access position → Screw-retained or screwmentable
- Compromised access position → Abutment + crown