

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Cemented versus screw-retained zirconia-based single-implant restorations: 5-year results of a randomized controlled clinical trial

Sofia T. Lamperti<sup>1</sup> | Karin Wolleb<sup>2</sup> | Christoph H.F. Hämmerle<sup>1</sup>  | Ronald E. Jung<sup>1</sup>  |  
Jürg Hüsler<sup>1</sup> | Daniel S. Thoma<sup>1,3</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Clinic of Reconstructive Dentistry, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup>Private Practice, Zurich, Switzerland

<sup>3</sup>Department of Periodontology, Research Institute for Periodontal Regeneration, College of Dentistry, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea

## Correspondence

Prof. Dr. Med. Dent. Daniel S. Thoma, Clinic of Reconstructive Dentistry, Center of Dental Medicine, University of Zurich, Plattenstrasse 11, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland.  
Email: [daniel.thoma@zzm.uzh.ch](mailto:daniel.thoma@zzm.uzh.ch)

## Funding information

International Team for Implantology (ITI), Grant/Award Number: 780\_2011

## Abstract

**Objectives:** To compare cemented and screw-retained one-piece zirconia-based restorations in terms of clinical, radiographic, and technical outcomes 5 years after insertion.

**Materials and methods:** Thirty-four patients with single-tooth implants were randomly restored with either a cemented lithium disilicate crown on a one-piece customized zirconia abutment (CEM, 17 patients) or a screw-retained crown based on a directly veneered one-piece customized zirconia abutment (SCREW, 16 patients). All patients were recalled for a baseline examination (7–10 days after crown insertion) and then annually up to 5 years. The following outcomes were assessed: marginal bone level (changes), technical, and clinical (bleeding on probing, plaque control record, probing depth, and keratinized tissue) parameters. The Mann-Whitney *U*-test was used to assess differences between the two groups.

**Results:** At 5 years, 26 patients (13 in each group) were re-examined. The survival rates on the implant and restorative levels were 100% and 82.4% (equally for both groups), respectively. At 5 years, the median marginal bone level was located at  $-0.15$  mm (IQR:  $-0.89$  mm;  $0.27$  mm) (CEM) and  $-0.26$  mm (IQR:  $-0.38$  mm;  $0.01$  mm) (SCREW) below the implant shoulder (intergroup  $p = .9598$ ). The median changes between baseline and the 5-year follow-up amounted to  $-0.23$  mm (CEM; intragroup  $p = .0002$ ) and  $-0.15$  mm (SCREW; intragroup  $p = .1465$ ) (intergroup  $p = .1690$ ). The overall technical complication rate at 5 years was 15.4% (CEM) and 15.4% (SCREW) (intergroup  $p = 1.00$ ). Clinical parameters remained stable over time (baseline to 5 years).

**Conclusions:** At 5 years, screw-retained and cemented restorations rendered largely the same clinical, technical, and radiographic outcomes. Technical complications were frequent in both groups.

## KEYWORDS

cemented, crowns, dental abutments, screw-retained, single-tooth dental implants

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes.

© 2022 The Authors. *Clinical Oral Implants Research* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Dental implants for the rehabilitation of single-tooth gaps are a valuable therapeutic option resulting in high long-term survival and success rates (Donati et al., 2016; Jemt, 2016; Jung et al., 2012; Zembic et al., 2015). Titanium abutments restored with porcelain fused to metal crowns are considered to be the gold standard (Andersson, 1995; Linkevicius & Vaitelis, 2015; Zembic et al., 2014), but leading to a more pronounced discoloration of the mucosa, predominantly in cases with a thin phenotype. In order to improve esthetics, zirconia-based restorations were introduced (Dede et al., 2016; Lops et al., 2013). Zirconia exhibits a high biocompatibility and is reported to lead to less plaque accumulation (Nakamura et al., 2010). Based on systematic reviews, zirconia abutments were found to result in superior clinical parameters (e.g., bleeding on probing) compared with titanium abutments (Sanz-Martin et al., 2018). In contrast, the clinical fracture rate was reported to be higher compared with metal abutments (Nilsson et al., 2017; Sailer et al., 2018).

Apart from the choice of the material, the clinician needs to decide on the type of retention (screw-retained or cemented). Both types of restorations rendered favorable clinical outcomes, but differed in the extent and the type of complication observed (Millen et al., 2015; Sailer et al., 2012; Wittneben et al., 2014). Most importantly, the probability of excess cement around cemented restorations may lead to inflammation of the peri-implant mucosa and subsequently to marginal bone loss. (Jepsen et al., 2015; Staubli et al., 2017). A preclinical study, however, reported no difference in the inflammatory infiltrate around cemented crowns in comparison with screw-retained crowns (Assenza et al., 2006). Applying a strict clinical cementation protocol including the placement of retraction cords and searching for excess cement after cementation by using visual, tactile, and radiographic methods, the incidence of excess cement may possibly be reduced.

Cemented all-ceramic restorations on customized zirconia abutments are documented up to 11 years and demonstrated stable marginal bone levels in clinical studies (Zembic et al., 2015), but a high rate of technical complications. This included complications such as minor chipping, occlusal roughness, and loss of retention due to a framework fracture. Screw-retained restorations exhibit more technical complications, but less serious biological complications (Sailer et al., 2012). Moreover, it allows for a simpler clinical procedure and an easier maintenance during the follow-up, since the restorations are retrievable (Jemt, 2009). To date, no RCT compared cemented and screw-retained zirconia-based restorations in term of radiographic, biological, and technical complications on the mid-term.

The aim of this study was, therefore, to compare cemented and screw-retained zirconia-based restorations in terms of clinical, radiographic, and technical outcomes up to 5 years after insertion. Changes of the marginal bone levels from crown insertion to 5 years were considered as primary outcome.

## 2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 | Study design and population

This study was designed as a randomized controlled clinical trial with two groups and a duration of 5 years, approved by the local ethics committee (Kantonale Ethikkommission Kanton Zürich, Ref. Nr. KEK-ZH-Nr. 2012-0147) and registered in [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) (NCT01644630). The trial was conducted according to the principles outlined in the World's Medical Association's Declaration of Helsinki on experimentation involving human subjects ("World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects," 2013), and the manuscript has been written according to the CONSORT guidelines.

Thirty-four patients were consecutively recruited in this study, having received 34 dental implants (Straumann Bone Level Implant 4.1 mm/3.0 mm SLActive, Institut Straumann AG, CH-4002 Basel/Switzerland) in the anterior area of the maxilla or the mandible (incisors, canines, or premolars). All subjects involved had provided their informed consent prior to inclusion in the study.

The patients had to fulfill the following inclusion criteria:

- 18–80 years of age;
- single-tooth implant of 3.3 or 4.1 mm diameter (Bone Level Implant, SLActive, Straumann), successfully integrated in the anterior maxilla or mandible (incisors, canines, and premolars);
- at least one adjacent natural tooth present;
- implant position enabling both a screw-retained or a cemented restoration.

The following criteria led to exclusion of a patient:

- smoking >10 cigarettes per day;
- poor oral hygiene (plaque control record >30%);
- pregnancy.

Informed consent was obtained from all patients. At the screening visit, before impression taking for the final crown, patients were randomly allocated to either group CEM (cemented single crown: zirconia abutment with a veneered lithium disilicate crown [ $n = 16$ ]) or group SCREW (screw-retained single crown: customized zirconia abutment, directly veneered with veneering ceramic [ $n = 17$ ]) by using a sealed envelope containing the group allocation according to a computer-generated list.

### 2.2 | Clinical and laboratory procedures

The clinical and laboratory procedures were described in detail in a previous publication (Thoma et al., 2018). In brief, after impression taking (digitally or conventionally) the zirconia abutments (Straumann CARES system) were designed and fabricated. For group

CEM (cemented crowns), it was essential to have the correct position of the abutment margin in relation to the peri-implant mucosa. The crown margin was placed 0.5 mm submucosally and confirmed during a clinical try-in. Lithium disilicate crowns (IPS e.max press, Ivoclar Vivadent, Schaan, Liechtenstein) were then fabricated. All abutment screws were tightened to 35 Ncm, and the crowns cemented using a universal resin cement (Rely X Unicem, 3M ESPE) and a retraction cord. In group SCREW, the abutments were designed and then directly veneered using veneering ceramics. The restorations were inserted with a torque of 35 Ncm. A Teflon tape and composite (Tetric, Ivoclar Vivadent) were used to close the screw access holes of the crowns.

### 2.3 | Maintenance and follow-up

All patients were recalled for a baseline examination (7–10 days after crown insertion) and at 6 months, 1 year, 3 years, and 5 years of loading. At all time-points, the following outcomes were assessed:

### 2.4 | Marginal bone level

Standardized single-tooth radiographs were taken and marginal bone levels calculated at 10x to 15x magnification using an open-source software (ImageJ, National Institute of Health). The distance between the implant shoulder and the bone crest was assessed at the mesial and distal aspect of each implant (MBL). The known distance between the implant threads (0.8 mm) was used for the calibration of the images. Mesial and distal values were averaged for further calculations. Changes over time were determined as the difference between MBL at 5 years and MBL at baseline (5 years–BL); positive values represent MBL gains, and negative values represent MBL losses.

### 2.5 | Technical outcome measures

Technical aspects were evaluated using modified USPHS (United States Public Health Service) criteria (Cvar & Ryge, 2005). In brief, the abutments and restorations were examined for catastrophic fracture, fracture of the veneering ceramic, abutment screw fracture, abutment screw loosening, occlusal wear, marginal adaption, and loss of retention. All parameters were rated alpha (A) in case of no complication, bravo (B) in case of minor extent of the complication, charlie (C) if the complication was major, or delta (D) if the abutment and/or restoration had to be removed due to the complication.

### 2.6 | Clinical and esthetic parameters

Biological parameters included the plaque control record (PCR) (O'Leary et al., 1972) bleeding on probing (BOP) and probing depth

(PD) values. These parameters were assessed at six sites of the implants and the adjacent mesial and distal teeth by means of a periodontal probe (PCB 12; Hu-Friedy). The width of keratinized tissue (KT) was assessed at the buccal midfacial aspect of the implant and neighboring teeth. The thickness of buccal mucosa was measured 1 mm apically of the mucosal margin using an endodontic file. The clinical crown height was measured by means of a periodontal probe from the buccal midfacial mucosa margin to the middle of the incisal edge of the implant crown. Furthermore, the gingival recession (REC) as well as the height of the papilla was evaluated (Jemt, 1997).

### 2.7 | Statistical analysis

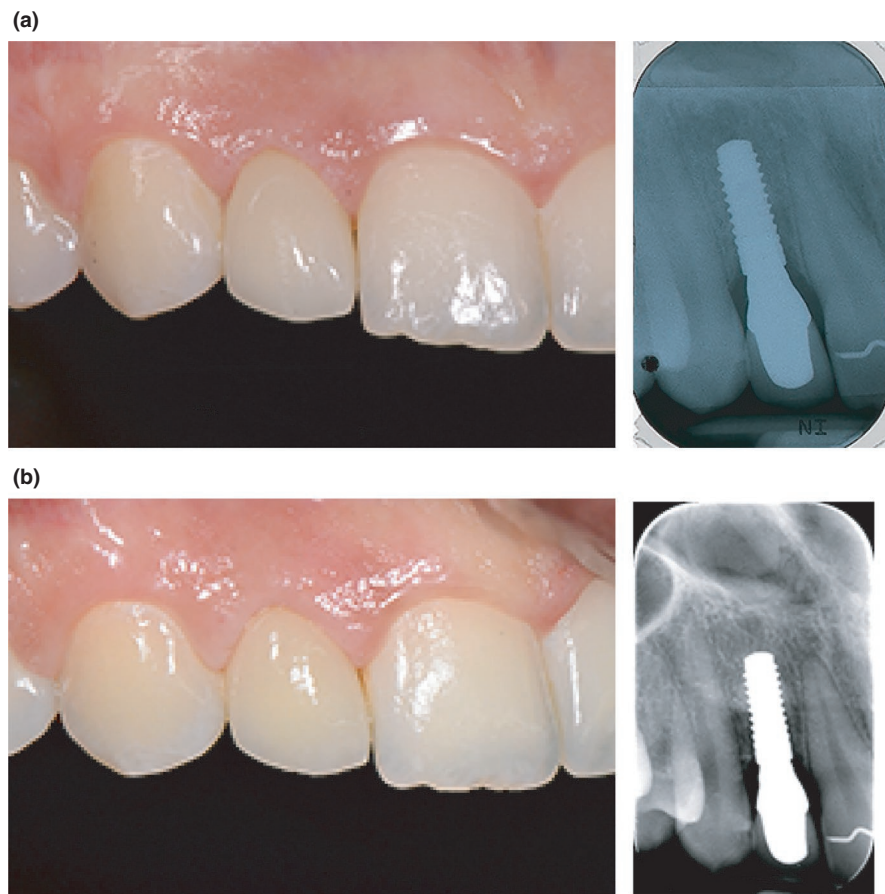
A power analysis was carried out in order to determine the sample size with a two-sample t-test using data from previous studies (Albrektsson et al., 1986; Palmer et al., 2000). A sample size of 15 in each group was supposed to have a power of 80% to detect a difference in means of –0.5 mm (the difference between the control group [2.3 mm] and the test group [2.8 mm]), assuming that the common standard deviation is 0.46 mm using a two-group t-test with a 0.05 two-sided significance level. Assuming a drop-out rate of 10%, the target sample size in each group was increased to 17.

Descriptive statistics (mean, SD, median, and quartiles) were calculated for all metric parameters. Differences between the CEM and SCREW group with respect to the primary endpoint (marginal bone) were tested with the Mann-Whitney *U*-test at baseline and at 5 years with exact *p*-value calculations because of the small sample sizes. The changes within each group between baseline and 5 years were tested with the Wilcoxon signed-rank test with exact *p*-value calculations. The significance level  $\alpha$  was set to 5%. All statistical analyses and plots were computed with the statistical software SAS 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc.). For categorical parameters, frequencies were derived and the comparison of the two groups is based on the chi-square test with exact *p*-value derivations.

## 3 | RESULTS

Twenty-six patients with 26 implants (mean age  $55.9 \pm 16.0$  years, with a range of 28.4 to 85.4 years) were re-examined at the 5-year follow-up (Figures 1 and 2).

Between the baseline visit and the 5-year follow-up, eight patients were considered as drop-out (23.5%) for the following reasons: diseased (three patients, two CEM and one SCREW), non-compliance (three patients, CEM), or moved away (one patient, SCREW). One patient (CEM) was excluded after the baseline visit because the abutment had been modified with veneering ceramic in the subgingival part due to a misunderstanding with the technician. The 26 implants in the patients attending the 5-year follow-up replaced:



**FIGURE 1** Group CEM, cemented all-ceramic crown 11; (a) at Baseline examination; (b) at the 5-year follow-up

- (i) CEM: 5 incisors, 2 canines, and 6 premolars; two implants were in the mandible and 11 in the maxilla.  
 (ii) SCREW: 4 incisors, 1 canine, and 8 premolars; eleven implants were in the maxilla and 2 in the mandible.

### 3.1 | Marginal bone levels and changes

All data are presented in [Table 1](#). The median marginal bone levels (MBLs) at baseline were 0.05 mm (Q1 = -0.66; Q3 = 0.33) in group CEM and 0.03 mm (Q1 = -0.21; Q3 = 0.49) in group SCREW (intergroup comparison  $p = .5271$ ). At the 5-year follow-up, the median MBL was located at -0.15 mm (Q1 = -0.89; Q3 = 0.27) (CEM) and -0.26 mm (Q1 = -0.38; Q3 = -0.01) (SCREW) below the implant shoulder (intergroup comparison  $p = .9598$ ). The changes between baseline and the 5-year follow-up amounted to -0.23 mm (Q1 = -0.55; Q3 = -0.07,  $p = .0002$ ) for CEM and -0.15 mm (Q1 = -0.51; Q3 = -0.10,  $p = .1465$ ) for SCREW (intergroup comparison  $p = 0.1690$ ) ([Table 1](#)).

### 3.2 | Clinical parameters

BOP, PCR, PD, or KT values were stable over time (baseline to 5 years) in groups CEM and SCREW as well as at control teeth ([Table 2](#)).

### 3.3 | Technical outcomes

Over 5 years including all 34 patients examined at baseline, the following technical complications occurred: two abutment fractures (SCREW), five minor chipping (four CEM, one SCREW), and one major chipping (CEM). The latter happened in a patient that had two minor chippings prior to the major chipping. The restoration was subsequently replaced. The overall technical complication rate for the 26 patients being re-examined at 5 years was 15.4% (CEM) and 15.4% (SCREW) (intergroup  $p = 1.00$ ).

In group CEM, one restoration had a visible cementation gap on the X-ray at baseline as well as at 5 years.

All technical outcome measures are reported in [Table 3](#).

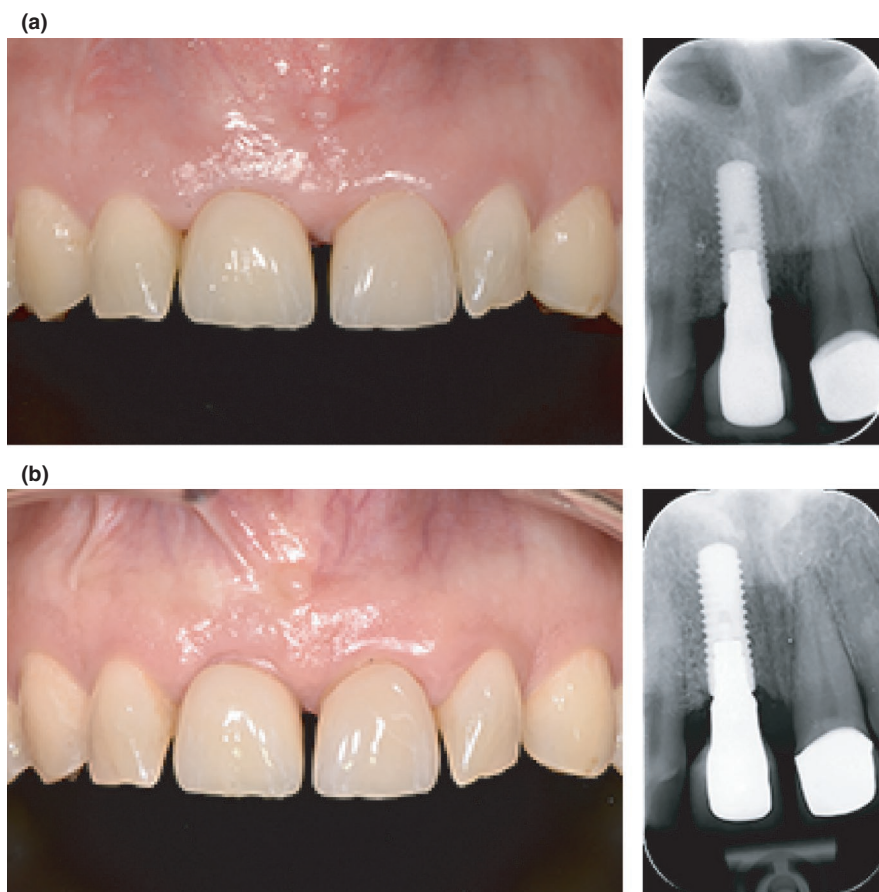
All esthetic parameters including mucosal thickness, papilla index (Jemt, 1997), and crown height are reported in [Table 4](#).

## 4 | DISCUSSION

The present RCT demonstrated similar clinical and technical outcomes for cemented (CEM) and screw-retained zirconia restorations. Implants restored with cemented restorations exhibited slightly higher changes in marginal bone levels than implants with screw-retained restorations. Technical complications occurred frequently in both groups.

Zirconia-based restorations on dental implants were evaluated in numerous clinical studies, predominantly in the esthetic zone

**FIGURE 2** Group SCREW screw-retained all-ceramic crown 12; (a) at Baseline examination; (b) at the 5-year follow-up



**TABLE 1** Marginal bone levels at baseline and at 5-year follow-up

		Cemented	Screw-retained	p-value
Baseline	N	17	16	
	Mean ± SD	-0.06 mm ± 0.63	0.16 mm ± 0.53	0.5271
	Median (Q1;Q3)	0.05 mm (-0.66; 0.33)	0.03mm (-0.21; 0.49)	
5 year follow-up	N	13	13	
	Mean ± SD	-0.39 mm ± 0.82	-0.2 mm ± 0.28	0.9598
	Median (Q1;Q3)	-0.15 mm (-0.89; 0.27)	-0.26 mm (-0.38; -0.01)	
change	N	13	13	0.1690
	Mean ± SD	-0.34 mm ± 0.31	-0.20 mm ± 0.41	
	Median (Q1;Q3)	-0.23 mm (-0.55; -0.07)	-0.15 mm (-0.51; -0.11)	

Abbreviations: SD, Standard deviation; Q1, quartile 1; Q3, quartile 3.

(Bidra & Rungruanant, 2013; Lops et al., 2013). Clinical data are supportive for this type of material with the longest follow-up being 11 years (Ekfeldt et al., 2017; Passos et al., 2016; Zembic et al., 2015). The majority of data on zirconia restorations is derived from studies applying two-piece implants with a matching implant-abutment junction. Based on a systematic review with estimated 5-year data comparing zirconia and metal-based restorations, survival rates on the restorative level were similar (Jung et al., 2012). In the past, implant systems were further developed. Moreover, the clinical community appears to favor two-piece implants with a horizontal offset (nonmatching implant-abutment junction) (Cochran et al., 2009, 2013; Monje & Pommer, 2015).

It is important to bear in mind that systematic reviews hardly ever distinguish between different implant systems and designs. The reported estimated survival rates can therefore not be generalized. Based on laboratory studies, the type of connection between the implant and the abutment significantly influences fracture strength and bending moments (Sailer et al., 2009, 2018). Considering that the implant design has an influence at least on technical outcomes in vitro and only limited data exist for a minority of implant systems with a horizontal offset (Eisner et al., 2018; Laass et al., 2018; Schneider et al., 2018), it is of importance to study the two commonly used modes of fabrication with further implant systems and a longer-term follow-up. Based on the

TABLE 2 Clinical parameters at baseline and at the 5-year follow-up

	Variable		Cemented		Screw-retained	
			Mean $\pm$ SD	Median (Q1; Q3)	Mean	Median (Q1; Q3)
Baseline	BOP (%)	Implant	32.4 $\pm$ 26.7	33.3 (0.0; 58.3)	16.7 $\pm$ 14.9	16.7 (0.0; 33.3)
		Tooth	15.1 $\pm$ 15.3	16.7 (0.0; 25)	24.0 $\pm$ 15.5	25 (8.3; 33.3)
	PCR (%)	Implant	9.8 $\pm$ 20.5	0 (0.0; 8.3)	5.2 $\pm$ 10.0	0 (0.0; 12.5)
		Tooth	19.8 $\pm$ 21.7	12.5 (0.0; 39.6)	18.8 $\pm$ 18.4	16.7 (0.0; 31.3)
	PD (mm)	Implant	2.9 $\pm$ 0.51	2.8 (2.5; 3.3)	3.0 $\pm$ 0.58	2.9 (2.7; 3.2)
		Tooth	2.2 $\pm$ 0.46	2.3 (1.8; 2.5)	2.3 $\pm$ 0.4	2.4 (2.0; 2.7)
	KT (mm)	Implant	3.0 $\pm$ 1.4	3.0 (2.0; 4.0)	3.9 $\pm$ 0.9	4.0 (3.0; 5.0)
		Tooth	3.1 $\pm$ 1.4	2.5 (2.4; 4)	3.8 $\pm$ 1.2	4.0 (2.8; 4.5)
5 year follow-up	BOP (%)	Implant	37.2 $\pm$ 32.0	33.3 (16.7; 66.6)	33.3 $\pm$ 28.4	33.3 (4.2; 50)
		Tooth	21.2 $\pm$ 26.5	8.3 (0.0; 45.8)	28.5 $\pm$ 26.0	25 (8.3; 47.9)
	PCR (%)	Implant	12.8 $\pm$ 15.4	0.0 (0.0; 33.3)	6.9 $\pm$ 11.1	0.0 (0.0; 16.7)
		Tooth	30.1 $\pm$ 28.4	25 (4.2; 50.0)	29.2 $\pm$ 25.3	29.2 (4.2; 33.3)
	PD (mm)	Implant	3.2 $\pm$ 0.6	3.3 (2.8; 3.6)	3.2 $\pm$ 0.5	3.1 (2.7; 3.5)
		Tooth	2.3 $\pm$ 0.3	2.3 (2.0; 2.6)	2.6 $\pm$ 0.5	2.6 (2.3; 2.8)
	KT (mm)	Implant	3.0 $\pm$ 1.4	3.0 (2.0; 3.5)	3.5 $\pm$ 0.7	4.0 (3.0; 4.0)
		Tooth	3.0 $\pm$ 1.3	3.0 (2.3; 3.8)	3.5 $\pm$ 1.2	3.8 (2.3; 4.5)

Abbreviations: BOP, Bleeding on probing; PCR, plaque control record; PD, probing depth; KT, keratinized tissue; implant, implant site; tooth, contralateral tooth.

TABLE 3 Technical outcome measures (USPHS) at baseline and at the 5-year follow-up

		Cemented				Screw-retained			
		A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Baseline	Patient's satisfaction	17	0	0	0	16	0	0	0
	Marginal adaptation	16	1	0	0				
	Veneering fracture	15	2	0	0	16	0	0	0
	Abutment fracture	17			0	16			0
	Anatomical form	17	0	0		16	0	0	
	Proximal contact mesial	12	4	1		11	3	2	
	Proximal contact distal	10	5	1		11	2	3	
	Occlusion	13	0	4		14	0	2	
	Occlusal wear	17	0	0		16	0	0	
	Color	17	0	0		16	0	0	
	X-ray: cementation gap visible	16	1	0	0				
	After 5 year follow-up	Patient's satisfaction	13	0	0	0	13	0	0
Marginal adaptation		10	3	0	0				
Veneering fracture		11	2	0	0	12	1	0	0
Abutment fracture		13			0	12			1
Anatomical form		13	0	0		12	1	0	
Proximal contact mesial		6	3	4		3	3	7	
Proximal contact distal		8	4	0		7	3	3	
Occlusion		11	0	2		8	0	5	
Occlusal wear		8	5	0		11	2	0	
Color		12	1	0		13	0	0	
X-ray: cementation gap visible		13	0	0	0				

Abbreviations: A, Alpha; B, Bravo; C, Charlie; D, Delta.

TABLE 4 Esthetic parameters at baseline and at the 5-year follow-up

	Variable	Cemented		Screw-retained	
		Mean $\pm$ SD	Median (Q1; Q3)	Mean $\pm$ SD	Median (Q1; Q3)
Baseline	Papilla index mesial	1.7 $\pm$ 0.8	2 (1; 2)	1.7 $\pm$ 0.7	2 (1; 2)
	Papilla index distal	1.4 $\pm$ 0.7	1 (1; 2)	1.4 $\pm$ 0.6	1 (1; 2)
	Crown height (mm)	9.2 $\pm$ 1.2	9.0 (9.0; 10.0)	9.1 $\pm$ 2.0	9.3 (7.3; 10.4)
	Mucosa thickness (mm)	3.4 $\pm$ 1.0	4.0 (2.5; 4.0)	4.1 $\pm$ 1.1	4.0 (3.3; 5.0)
5-year follow-up	Papilla index mesial	2.1 $\pm$ 0.9	2 (1; 3)	1.8 $\pm$ 0.8	2 (1; 2.8)
	Papilla index distal	1.8 $\pm$ 0.7	2 (1; 2)	1.7 $\pm$ 0.7	2 (1; 2)
	Crown height (mm)	9.8 $\pm$ 1.4	9.5 (9; 10.8)	9.1 $\pm$ 2.1	9.0 (7.1; 10.0)
	Mucosa thickness (mm)	2.5 $\pm$ 0.9	2.5 (2.0; 3.0)	2.8 $\pm$ 0.9	2.8 (2; 3.4)

Abbreviations: SD, Standard deviation; Q1, quartile 1; Q3, quartile 3.

above-mentioned three- and five-year data of a prospective clinical study (Eisner et al., 2018; Laass et al., 2018), all-ceramic restorations based on zirconia abutments tend to result in an increased rate of technical complications. This was further underlined by the present study, using a different implant system, but a similar connection, with an overall rate of 15.4% of technical complications in both groups. Clearly, internally connected zirconia-based restorations were prone for technical complications including abutment fracture, major chippings, and minor chipping. This is slightly higher to the commonly reported chipping rates for single-implant-borne restorations of 4.5% at 5 years based on a systematic review (Jung et al., 2012). Similarly, higher incidences of chippings for all-ceramic zirconia-based restorations with veneering were reported in a retrospective study and predominantly when compared to porcelain fused to metal crowns or monolithic crowns (Schwarz et al., 2012).

The bone loss in the present study is within the regular range for this type of implant, mostly occurring within the first year after loading (Albrektsson et al., 1986; Schnider et al., 2018). Only minor median crestal bone changes relative to the implant shoulder were observed between baseline and the 5-year follow-up. Changes from crown insertion to 5 years were  $-0.23$  mm (CEM) and  $-0.15$  mm (SCREW). Similar results were presented in previous clinical data for two-piece dental implants with a horizontal offset revealing only minor changes over time and bone levels close to the implant shoulder (Nilsson et al., 2017; Schnider et al., 2018; Wittneben et al., 2017). Even though revealing slight differences (not statistically significant) in terms of marginal bone level changes, the radiographic outcomes were similar for both groups.

The outcomes of the present study are to some extent limited by the small sample size, a relatively high drop-out rate (8 out of 34 patients). Moreover, single-tooth implants in the posterior region were not included. Due to higher chewing forces, zirconia abutments for molars might be more prone to fracture although a comparison between titanium and zirconia abutments over 5 years did not find any difference in technical complications between the two materials in the posterior region (Zembic et al., 2013). Furthermore, according

to strict inclusion criteria, patients with poor oral hygiene, heavy smokers, or pregnant patients were excluded. For these reasons, the present outcomes cannot be generalized.

## 5 | CONCLUSION

Limited by a relatively high drop-out rate and strict inclusion criteria excluding molars, screw-retained and cemented single crowns on customized zirconia abutments demonstrated similar clinical, technical, and radiographic outcomes at 5 years. The rate of technical complications, however, was relatively high in both groups.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Mrs Gisela Müller for the data management and general support of the study. The study was supported by a grant of the International Team for Implantology (ITI), ITI research grant 780\_2011 and by the Clinic of Reconstructive Dentistry, University of Zurich. Open Access funding provided by Universitat Zurich.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST


The authors report no conflict of interest.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

**Sofia Lamperti:** Data curation (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – original draft (lead). **Karin Wolleb:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Christoph H.F. Hämmerle:** Conceptualization (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Methodology (equal); Resources (equal); Supervision (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Ronald Ernst Jung:** Conceptualization (equal); Supervision (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Juerg Huesler:** Formal analysis (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Daniel S Thoma:** Conceptualization (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Funding

acquisition (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal); Resources (equal); Supervision (equal); Writing – original draft (supporting).

## ORCID

Christoph H.F. Hammerle  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8280-7347>

Ronald E. Jung  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2055-1320>

Daniel S. Thoma  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1764-7447>

## REFERENCES

- Albrektsson, T., Zarb, G., Worthington, P., & Eriksson, A. R. (1986). The long-term efficacy of currently used dental implants: A review and proposed criteria of success. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 1(1), 11–25.
- Andersson, B. (1995). Implants for single-tooth replacement. A clinical and experimental study on the branemark ceraone system. *Swedish Dental Journal. Supplement*, 108, 1–41.
- Assenza, B., Artese, L., Scarano, A., Rubini, C., Perrotti, V., Piattelli, M., Thams, U., San Roman, F., Piccirilli, M., & Piattelli, A. (2006). Screw vs cement-implant-retained restorations: An experimental study in the beagle. Part 2. Immunohistochemical evaluation of the peri-implant tissues. *Journal of Oral Implantology*, 32(1), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1563/754.1>
- Bidra, A. S., & Rungruanant, P. (2013). Clinical outcomes of implant abutments in the anterior region: A systematic review. *Journal of Esthetic and Restorative Dentistry*, 25(3), 159–176. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jerd.12031>
- Cochran, D. L., Bosshardt, D. D., Grize, L., Higginbottom, F. L., Jones, A. A., Jung, R. E., Wieland, M., & Dard, M. (2009). Bone response to loaded implants with non-matching implant-abutment diameters in the canine mandible. *Journal of Periodontology*, 80(4), 609–617. <https://doi.org/10.1902/jop.2009.080323>
- Cochran, D. L., Mau, L. P., Higginbottom, F. L., Wilson, T. G., Bosshardt, D. D., Schoolfield, J., & Jones, A. A. (2013). Soft and hard tissue histologic dimensions around dental implants in the canine restored with smaller-diameter abutments: A paradigm shift in peri-implant biology. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 28(2), 494–502. <https://doi.org/10.11607/jomi.3081>
- Cvar, J. F., & Ryge, G. (2005). Reprint of criteria for the clinical evaluation of dental restorative materials. *Clinical Oral Investigations*, 9(4), 215–232. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00784-005-0018-z>
- Dede, D. O., Armaganci, A., Ceylan, G., Celik, E., Cankaya, S., & Yilmaz, B. (2016). Influence of implant abutment material on the color of different ceramic crown systems. *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, 116(5), 764–769.
- Donati, M., Ekstubb, A., Lindhe, J., & Wennstrom, J. L. (2016). Implant-supported single-tooth restorations. A 12-year prospective study. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 27(10), 1207–1211. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.12726>
- Eisner, B., Naenni, N., Hüsler, J., Hammerle, C. H. F., Thoma, D. S., & Sailer, I. (2018). 3-year results of a randomized controlled clinical trial using submucosally veneered and un-veneered zirconia abutments supporting all-ceramic single implant crowns. *The International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry*, 38, 645–652.
- Ekfeldt, A., Furst, B., & Carlsson, G. E. (2017). Zirconia abutments for single-tooth implant restorations: A 10- to 11-year follow-up study. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 28(10), 1303–1308. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.12975>
- Jemt, T. (1997). Regeneration of gingival papillae after single-implant treatment. *The International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry*, 17(4), 326–333.
- Jemt, T. (2009). Cemented ceraone and porcelain fused to tiadapt abutment single-implant crown restorations: A 10-year comparative follow-up study. *Clinical Implant Dentistry and Related Research*, 11(4), 303–310. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1708-8208.2008.00120.x>
- Jemt, T. (2016). Single-implant survival: More than 30 years of clinical experience. *The International Journal of Prosthodontics*, 29(6), 551–558. <https://doi.org/10.11607/ijp.4892>
- Jepsen, S., Berglundh, T., Genco, R., Aass, A. M., Demirel, K., Derks, J., Figuero, E., Giovannoli, J. L., Goldstein, M., Lambert, F., Ortiz-Vigon, A., Polyzois, I., Salvi, G. E., Schwarz, F., Serino, G., Tomasi, C., & Zitzmann, N. U. (2015). Primary prevention of peri-implantitis: Managing peri-implant mucositis. *Journal of Clinical Periodontology*, 42(Suppl 16), S152–157. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpe.12369>
- Jung, R. E., Zembic, A., Pjetursson, B. E., Zwahlen, M., & Thoma, D. S. (2012). Systematic review of the survival rate and the incidence of biological, technical, and aesthetic complications of single crowns on implants reported in longitudinal studies with a mean follow-up of 5 years. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 23(Suppl 6), 2–21.
- Laass, A., Sailer, I., Hüsler, J., Hammerle, C. H. F., & Thoma, D. S. (2018). Randomized controlled clinical trial of all-ceramic single tooth implant reconstructions using modified zirconia abutments: Results at 5 years of loading. *The International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry*, 39, 17–27.
- Linkevicius, T., & Vaitelis, J. (2015). The effect of zirconia or titanium as abutment material on soft peri-implant tissues: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 26(Suppl 11), 139–147. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.12631>
- Lops, D., Bressan, E., Chiapasco, M., Rossi, A., & Romeo, E. (2013). Zirconia and titanium implant abutments for single-tooth implant prostheses after 5 years of function in posterior regions. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 28(1), 281–287. <https://doi.org/10.11607/jomi.2668>
- Millen, C., Bragger, U., & Wittneben, J. G. (2015). Influence of prosthesis type and retention mechanism on complications with fixed implant-supported prostheses: A systematic review applying multivariate analyses. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 30(1), 110–124. <https://doi.org/10.11607/jomi.3607>
- Monje, A., & Pommer, B. (2015). The concept of platform switching to preserve peri-implant bone level: Assessment of methodologic quality of systematic reviews. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 30(5), 1084–1092. <https://doi.org/10.11607/jomi.4103>
- Nakamura, K., Kanno, T., Milleding, P., & Ortengren, U. (2010). Zirconia as a dental implant abutment material: A systematic review. *The International Journal of Prosthodontics*, 23(4), 299–309.
- Nilsson, A., Johansson, L. A., Lindh, C., & Ekfeldt, A. (2017). One-piece internal zirconia abutments for single-tooth restorations on narrow and regular diameter implants: A 5-year prospective follow-up study. *Clinical Implant Dentistry and Related Research*, 19(5), 916–925. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cid.12515>
- O'Leary, T. J., Drake, R. B., & Naylor, J. E. (1972). The plaque control record. *Journal of Periodontology*, 43(1), 38. <https://doi.org/10.1902/jop.1972.43.1.38>
- Palmer, R. M., Palmer, P. J., & Smith, B. J. (2000). A 5-year prospective study of astra single tooth implants. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 11(2), 179–182. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0501.2000.tb00012.x>
- Passos, S. P., Linke, B., Larjava, H., & French, D. (2016). Performance of zirconia abutments for implant-supported single-tooth crowns in esthetic areas: A retrospective study up to 12-year follow-up. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 27(1), 47–54. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.12504>
- Sailer, I., Asgeirsson, A. G., Thoma, D. S., Fehmer, V., Aspelund, T., Ozcan, M., & Pjetursson, B. E. (2018). Fracture strength of zirconia implant abutments on narrow diameter implants with internal and external



- implant abutment connections: A study on the titanium resin base concept. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 29(4), 411–423. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.13139>
- Sailer, I., Muhlemann, S., Zwahlen, M., Hammerle, C. H., & Schneider, D. (2012). Cemented and screw-retained implant reconstructions: A systematic review of the survival and complication rates. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 23(Suppl 6), 163–201. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0501.2012.02538.x>
- Sailer, I., Sailer, T., Stawarczyk, B., Jung, R. E., & Hammerle, C. H. (2009). In vitro study of the influence of the type of connection on the fracture load of zirconia abutments with internal and external implant-abutment connections. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 24(5), 850–858.
- Sanz-Martin, I., Sanz-Sanchez, I., Carrillo de Albornoz, A., Figuero, E., & Sanz, M. (2018). Effects of modified abutment characteristics on peri-implant soft tissue health: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 29(1), 118–129. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.13097>
- Schneider, N., Forrer, F. A., Bragger, U., & Hicklin, S. P. (2018). Clinical performance of one-piece, screw-retained implant crowns based on hand-veneered cad/cam zirconia abutments after a mean follow-up period of 2.3 years. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 33(1), 188–196. <https://doi.org/10.11607/jomi.5929>
- Schwarz, S., Schroder, C., Hassel, A., Bomicke, W., & Rammelsberg, P. (2012). Survival and chipping of zirconia-based and metal-ceramic implant-supported single crowns. *Clinical Implant Dentistry and Related Research*, 14(Suppl 1), e119–125. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1708-8208.2011.00388.x>
- Staubli, N., Walter, C., Schmidt, J. C., Weiger, R., & Zitzmann, N. U. (2017). Excess cement and the risk of peri-implant disease—A systematic review. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 28(10), 1278–1290. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.12954>
- Thoma, D. S., Wolleb, K., Bienz, S. P., Wiedemeier, D., Hammerle, C. H. F., & Sailer, I. (2018). Early histological, microbiological, radiological, and clinical response to cemented and screw-retained all-ceramic single crowns. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 29(10), 996–1006. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.13366>
- Wittneben, J. G., Gavric, J., Belsler, U. C., Bornstein, M. M., Joda, T., Chappuis, V., Sailer, I., & Bragger, U. (2017). Esthetic and clinical performance of implant-supported all-ceramic crowns made with prefabricated or cad/cam zirconia abutments: A randomized, multicenter clinical trial. *Journal of Dental Research*, 96(2), 163–170. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022034516681767>
- Wittneben, J. G., Millen, C., & Bragger, U. (2014). Clinical performance of screw- versus cement-retained fixed implant-supported reconstructions—A systematic review. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 29(Suppl), 84–98. <https://doi.org/10.11607/jomi.2014suppl.g2.1>
- Zembic, A., Bösch, A., Jung, R. E., Hämmerle, C. H., & Sailer, I. (2013). Five-year results of a randomized controlled clinical trial comparing zirconia and titanium abutments supporting single-implant crowns in canine and posterior regions. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 24(4), 384–390. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.12044>
- Zembic, A., Kim, S., Zwahlen, M., & Kelly, J. R. (2014). Systematic review of the survival rate and incidence of biologic, technical, and esthetic complications of single implant abutments supporting fixed prostheses. *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, 29(Suppl), 99–116.
- Zembic, A., Philipp, A. O., Hammerle, C. H., Wohlwend, A., & Sailer, I. (2015). Eleven-year follow-up of a prospective study of zirconia implant abutments supporting single all-ceramic crowns in anterior and premolar regions. *Clinical Implant Dentistry and Related Research*, 17(Suppl 2), e417–426. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cid.12263>

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of the article at the publisher's website.

**How to cite this article:** Lamperti, S. T., Wolleb, K., Hämmerle, C. H. F., Jung, R. E., Hüsler, J., & Thoma, D. S. (2022). Cemented versus screw-retained zirconia-based single-implant restorations: 5-year results of a randomized controlled clinical trial. *Clinical Oral Implants Research*, 33, 353–361. <https://doi.org/10.1111/clr.13895>