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**SOCKET PRESERVATION**  
**By Buccal Shield Technique**

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**ABSTRACT**

Tooth extraction seems like a simple clinical procedure but it is invariably followed by a cascade of events. one of the most significant of which is the buccal bone loss and subsequent soft tissue recession. this is attributable to the loss of periodontal ligament and the trauma, particularly at the buccal bone plate this can be lessened to a certain degree by socket preservation as it has the ability to maintain the ridge dimension to a limited extent. However none of the techniques can completely stop this process. this natural chain of events can be interrupted by retaining the part of the buccal root or the socket shield technique. this technique requires a certain amount of surgical dexterity but it can be one of the most effective ways till date to achieve predictable aesthetic outcome with minimal armamentarium and materials. some complications may arise however, if proper protocols are not followed. the following case shows the socket shield protocol, complication and it's subsequent management.

This case report represents a 45-year-old male patient with grossly decayed maxillary left Central incisor indicated for extraction replaced with an immediate implant. While examining cone-beam computed tomography, thin buccal cortical plate was noticed which may get fracture during extraction. Socket-shield technique was designed for implant placement to protect buccal bone and to get the proper esthetic form. Two millimeters buccal fragment of the tooth was kept attached and the implant was placed in contact with tooth fragment. Three-month follow-up shows proper healing, and healthy peri-implant tissue shows that socket-shield technique with immediate implant placement will be a good alternative to preserve buccal cortical plate and implant placement, especially in the esthetic area.

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