

CALIBRATION OF NEW SOFTWARE WITH CONE BEAM C.T FOR EVALUATION OF ITS RELIABILITY IN DENSITOMETRIC ANALYSIS AROUND DENTAL IMPLANTS

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Abstract: *Aim:* assessment of the validity and reliability of Idrisi Kilimanjaro software for densitometric analysis around dental implant to evaluate osseointegration by calibration with CBCT. *Material and Methods:* 42 clinically osseointegrated dental implants; 28 immediate (17 mandibular and 11 maxillary) and 14 delayed implants (5 mandibular and 9 maxillary) were inserted in 28 patients of both sex (9 males and 19 females) with average age of 31.7 years. All the implants were radiographed using CBCT 1day and 4 months postsurgically, densitometric analysis was performed around dental implant on CBCT image at these 2 time intervals. Another radiodensitometric analysis was performed on the same radiographic image taken by CBCT and at the same time intervals using new computer software called "IDRISI Kilimanjaro". "Microstat 7" for windows statistical package, paired "t" test, Pearson's correlation and Coefficient of variation of both techniques were used for statistical analysis of the results. *Results:* There was a very high positive correlation between bone density values measured by CBCT and IDRISI techniques while there was no statistically significant difference between coefficients of variation of both readings in both techniques that indicates the reliability of IDRISI Kilimanjaro software for densitometric analysis around dental implants. There was also a statistically highly significant difference between both readings in each technique indicating a highly significant osseointegration of dental implants involved in this study. *Conclusions:* IDRISI Kilimanjaro software is a valid and reliable way in densitometric analysis around dental implants for assessment of osseointegration procedure when it is calibrated with CBCT and it is as accurate as CBCT.

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1. Introduction:

There are two ways of achieving connection between an endosteal implant and the host tissue. Anchorage may be achieved through a non-mineralized zone or connective tissue, which is claimed to be a pseudo-periodontium. The fibro-integration was attributed to the surgical technique and early over loading, *Garetta et al., (1995)*. The other way of direct contact between bone and implant is called osseointegration, *Albrektsson et al., (1981) and Skalak (1983)*. Osseointegration was defined as the apparent direct attachment or connection of osseous tissue to an inert alloplastic material without intervening has been demonstrated as biochemical bonding of living bone to the surface of a hydroxyapatite coated implant, *Rieger et al., (1989)*. In implants dentistry, this phenomenon called osseointegration has become the accepted standard for success in dental implants. Yet, Failure of these devices associated with impaired healing, infection, and over load are well recognized, *Ratner (2001)*. Because osseointegration is essentially a wound healing process, factors that interfere with healing may contribute to implant failure. Hence, conditions shown to adversely affect wound healing may decrease the potential for successful

osseointegration, *Elsubeihi and Zarb (2002)*. Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) is a relatively new medium for maxillofacial conditions, it was developed in 1998 and has been commonly used commercially since 2000, and it offers less radiation than computed tomography (CT) in 3D image construction, *Benninger et al., (2012)*. CBCT was introduced into the U.S. market in 2001; it has been shown to be a precise imaging modality and is a valuable tool for use in dental applications, *Hatcher (2010)*. It was also used to measure bone density with dental implants, *Lai et al., (2010)*. This imaging technique is now used worldwide; it is a reliable and credible alternative to CT scan for dentomaxillofacial imaging; radiation exposure may vary from one machine to another, but it remains definitely lower than CT dose levels; this technique is compatible with dental implant software. The major diagnostic advantage is the exquisite spatial resolution while the main pitfall is the poor contrast of face and neck soft tissues, due to a lower density resolution compared to CT scan, *Hauret and Hodez (2009)*. CBCT can provide identical information to multislice computed tomography (MSCT), with a considerable dose reduction when panoramic radiography is not

sufficient in the study of the teeth and jaw bones, *Carrafiello et al., (2010)*. It was suggested that voxel values of mandibular cancellous bone in CBCT could be used to estimate bone density, *Naitoh et al., (2009)*. This bone density assessment was performed by measurement of Hounsfield Units (HU) using cone beam computed tomography (CBCT), *Aranyarachkul et al., (2005) and Marquezan et al., (2011)*. In a clinical investigation for measuring bone density in healing periapical lesions by using CBCT; the results of this study supported the use of this CBCT to measure bone density, *Kaya et al., (2012)*. Furthermore, a linear relationship can be used to determine the density of materials (in the density range of bone) from the HU values of a CBCT scan. This relationship is not affected by the object's location within the scanner itself, *Lagravère et al., (2008)*. Preoperative CBCT for bone density measurements may be helpful as an objective diagnostic tool, *Fuster-Torres et al., (2011)*. It is important in presurgical imaging for dental implant treatment, *Naitoh et al., (2009)*. It allows accurate assessment of the entire volume of a proposed implant site, *King et al., (2007)*. In a study of bone mineral density (BMD) measurement, it was concluded that there was a positive correlation between BMD of total bone block measured by Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) and that measured by (CBCT), *Marquezan et al., (2011)*. Radiographic bone density (RBD) assessed by CBCT has also a strong positive correlation with bone volumetric fraction (BV/TV) assessed by micro-CT at the site of dental implants in the maxillary bones and so, pre-operative estimation of density values by CBCT is a reliable tool to objectively determine bone density, *González-García and Monje (2012)*. It was suggested that the trabecular bone volume per total tissue volume BV/TV obtained using CBCT images can be used to evaluate the density of mandibular cancellous bone in dental implant treatment, *Naitoh et al., (2010)*. The bone quality was objectively assessed with density values obtained from CBCT to determine the correlations between bone density and primary stability of dental implants, *Isoda et al., (2011)*. CBCT was also used to evaluate bone quality changes surrounding the apical portion of immediate implants placed under higher insertion torque utilizing an undersized drilling technique, *González-Martín et al., (2011)*. Furthermore, CBCT is a useful approach for evaluating bone density changes around teeth induced by orthodontic treatment, *Chang et al., (2011) and Hsu et al., (2011)*. It is a good choice for analyzing bone mass, *Hohlweg-Majert et al., (2011)*. In recently introduced CBCT, magnification of images did not occur, allowing it being used for accurate clinical procedures, *Yim et al., (2011)*.

CBCT imaging allows remarkably lower radiation doses and thinner acquisition slices compared with medical computed tomography, *Kim et al., (2007)*. IDRISI Kilimanjaro software facilitated image restoration, enhancement, and densitometric analysis and so it was used for image analysis. This software provided a unique facility in comparison to other densitometric measuring software programs, as it facilitated monitoring the changes in bone density at two zones around implant images. The first zone represented the osseointegration zone which was located just adjacent to the implant borders, along the bone-implant interface. On the other hand, the second zone was located just around the first zone and represented the bone surrounding the interface, *Becker (1999) and Radwan (2005)*.

Aim of this study was to assess the validity and reliability of Idrisi Kilimanjaro software for densitometric analysis around dental implant to evaluate osseointegration; by calibration of this software with CBCT.

2. Material and Methods:

2.1. Material:

2.1.1. Sample of the study:

42 clinically osseointegrated dental implants were selected to be involved in this study, all of them were performed by the same operator, they were inserted in 28 patients of both sex (9 males and 19 females) aged 23 – 47 years old with average age of 31.7 years; according to the technique of implant insertion, they were 28 immediate dental implants (17 mandibular and 11 maxillary) and 14 delayed implants (5 mandibular and 9 maxillary).

2.2. Methods:

2.2.1. Clinical procedure for dental implants:

After extraction of the non-restorable tooth that would be replaced by dental implant (in case of immediate implant), adjustment of the extraction socket was performed using the suitable drillers under copious irrigation till reaching the size of proposed dental implant, then, implant was inserted and screwed to its final position in the prepared socket and finally, a non resorbable membrane was placed over the inserted implant to cover it completely over which figure 8 suturing was performed to secure membrane in position. (*Figure 1*).

2.2.2. CBCT procedure for densitometric analysis:

All the implants involved in this study were radiographed by CBCT 1day and 4 months postsurgically. Exposure was performed using "Scanora3D", Sorredex- Finland, at 15 mA, 85 KV and at a proper field of view. Image reconstruction was performed using special software called

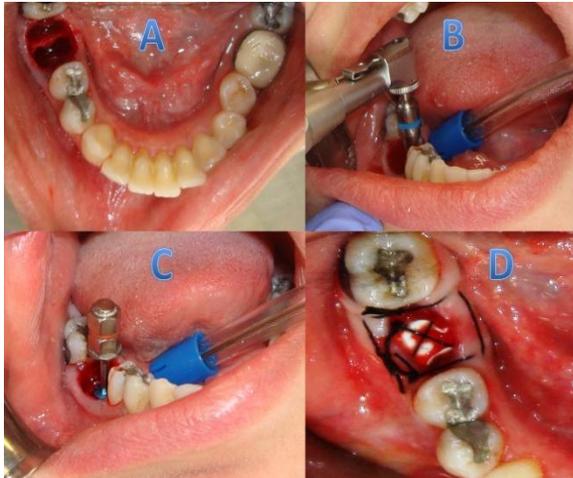


Fig.1: Clinical steps for placement of immediate dental implant

A: Extraction of non-restorable tooth

B: Drilling to widen the socket

C: placement and screwing of dental implant

D: suturing over the membrane

“Ondemand3D” version 1.0.9, Cybermed, Korea. Standardization during imaging was achieved through adjusting the patient positioning and lights as follows: The seat height was adjusted to position the region of interest (ROI) vertically within the field of view (FOV). The upper light beam indicated the top of the FOV and the lower light beam indicated the bottom of the FOV. The sagittal light (vertical front light) was positioned in the center of the FOV from sagittal direction so that it is in the center of the ROI. The lateral light (vertical side light) was positioned in the center of the FOV in the lateral direction so that it is in the center of the ROI. The patient was instructed not to move during the duration of exposure. Densitometric analysis was performed around dental implant on CBCT image at these 2 time intervals using this “Ondemand3D” software supplied with the previously mentioned machine. The layer thickness to be analyzed was standardized to 1 cm to be sure that it contains all the implant inside; the reading of mean density outside the implant was taken as the final analysis. This analysis gives the actual bone density around the immersed dental implant that proves the process of osseointegration (Figure 2).

2.2.3. IDRISI procedure for densitometric analysis:

Another radiodensitometric analysis was performed on the same radiographic image taken by CBCT and at the same time intervals using new computer software called IDRISI Kilimanjaro that facilitated image restoration, enhancement, and densitometric measurements. { IDRISI 14.01 (Kilimanjaro) is a

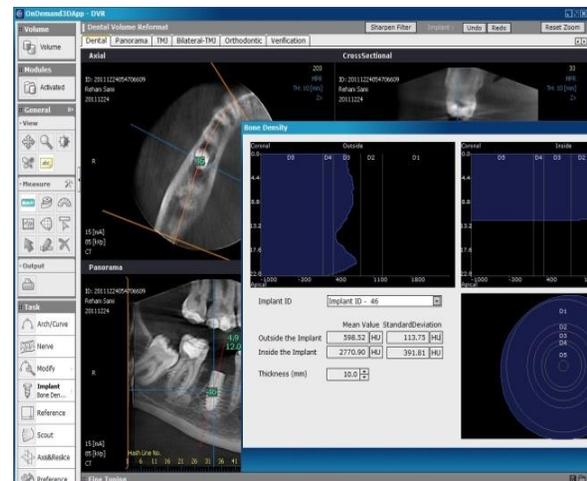


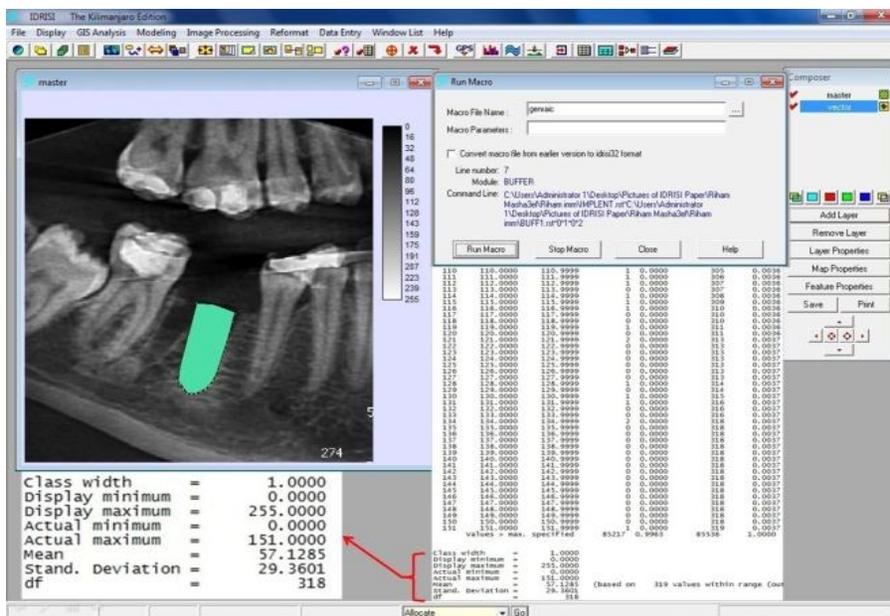
Fig.2: Densitometric analysis procedure around dental implant using CBCT

software product of Clark Labs, Clark University, Main Street, Worcester, MA.01610-1477, USA}. IDRISI assessed the density of the bone surrounding implant in the digitized radiographs by dividing it into two zones with standardized width. First zone (zone 1) was located just adjacent to the implant and represented osseointegration zone (implant-bone interface).The second zone (zone 2) was located just around the first one and represented the bone surrounding implant. The software analyze the images through the following steps; image restoration, image enhancement and density measurements. Image restoration technique allows for both radiometric and geometric correction of images. The procedure is followed by image enhancement technique which allows contrast adjustment regarding all the images, then implant edge enhancement, followed by subtracting the implant from the background image (surrounding bone). Finally, the density measurements are calibrated by quantifying the image on 256 grey-scales. Zero scale are given to the totally black regions, 256 for totally white regions and the values in between represent shades of grey, Gonzalez et al., (1992), Bernd (1993) and Dawoud (2009); (Figure 3).

2.2.4. Statistical analysis:

All data were collected and statistically analyzed using “microstat 7” for windows statistical package and Paired “t” test for comparison between both readings in each technique. “Pearson's correlation” was also used for correlation between reading 1 in both techniques and reading 2 in both techniques too (*r value*). Coefficients of variation of both techniques were compared using “Z score” test to compare percentages of variations.

Fig. 3:
Densitometric analysis procedure around the same dental implant using IDRISI



3. Results:

All the statistical results considered to be significant at $P \text{ value} \leq 0.05$. There was a very high positive correlation between bone density values measured by CBCT and IDRISI techniques (r value = 0.94), indicating that IDRISI Kilimanjaro software is a reliable technique for densitometric analysis around dental implants (Table 1). There was no statistically significant difference between coefficients of variation of both readings in both techniques that also indicates that IDRISI is a reliable technique for bone density measurement around dental implants (Table 2, Figure 4). Using paired t test, there was a statistically highly significant difference between both readings in each technique indicating that there was a highly significant formation of bone around dental implants by time that means highly significant osseointegration of these dental implants. (Table 3 & Figure 5). The raw data of densitometric analysis for the 42 dental implants measured by both CBCT and IDRISI Kilimanjaro softwares were tabulated for the previous statistical analysis (Table 4).

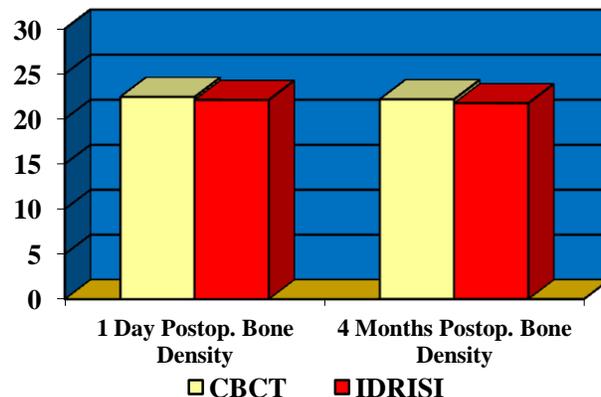


Figure 4: Comparing Coefficient of variation of the same reading in both techniques

Table 3: Paired t test comparing both readings in each technique

Technique	BONE DENSITY		"t"	Prob.
	1 day postoperative	4 months postoperative		
CBCT	639.47 ± 137.13	897.44 ± 199.02	19.605	0.000001
IDRISI	45.21 ± 10.00	63.28 ± 13.76	21.974	0.000001

Table 1: Correlation between bone density values by CBCT and IDRISI

BONE DENSITY	"r" value	Prob
1 day postoperative	0.94	0.000001
4 months postoperative	0.94	0.000001

Table 2: Coefficient of variation in both techniques

BONE DENSITY	CBCT	IDRISI	Prob
1 day postoperative	22.44%	22.11%	0.473 (NS)
4 months postoperative	22.18%	21.74%	0.482 (NS)

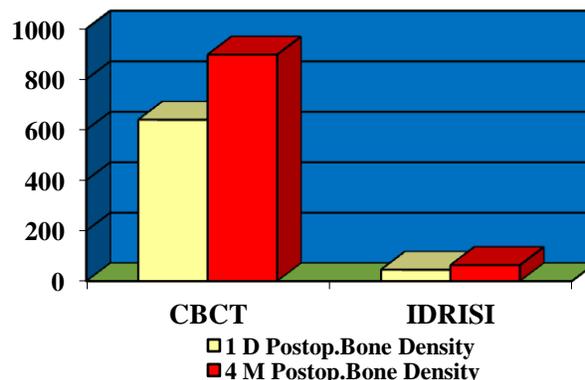


Figure 5: Comparing mean values of bone density measured by each technique in two time intervals

Table 4: Bone density readings for all implants by both techniques

PATIENTS		CBCT	IDRISI	PATIENTS		CBCT	IDRISI
Implant 1	Read 1	465.94	32.6677	Implant 22	Read 1	593.75	46.0271
	Read 2	667.17	46.7801		Read 2	829.18	64.2438
Implant 2	Read 1	721.33	48.3572	Implant 23	Read 1	681.39	50.8517
	Read 2	1089.20	74.3733		Read 2	992.32	71.1838
Implant 3	Read 1	389.99	25.7098	Implant 24	Read 1	726.76	53.0559
	Read 2	617.39	40.0044		Read 2	1034.65	75.6557
Implant 4	Read 1	584.43	41.7491	Implant 25	Read 1	498.66	36.2398
	Read 2	857.94	58.4487		Read 2	744.57	53.8600
Implant 5	Read 1	687.49	43.8665	Implant 26	Read 1	398.98	30.8092
	Read 2	958.70	61.2288		Read 2	580.99	44.0465
Implant 6	Read 1	812.36	48.6959	Implant 27	Read 1	728.64	55.5564
	Read 2	1153.55	70.0490		Read 2	946.32	73.1488
Implant 7	Read 1	514.86	36.0041	Implant 28	Read 1	691.46	50.6415
	Read 2	720.80	51.8062		Read 2	951.23	68.6810
Implant 8	Read 1	632.59	42.4557	Implant 29	Read 1	709.23	54.5565
	Read 2	988.80	64.7364		Read 2	984.15	76.1524
Implant 9	Read 1	823.66	49.9187	Implant 30	Read 1	826.41	63.0318
	Read 2	1234.17	74.2390		Read 2	1187.09	88.9460
Implant 10	Read 1	437.56	29.1706	Implant 31	Read 1	693.45	50.7977
	Read 2	611.97	41.1305		Read 2	920.13	67.5514
Implant 11	Read 1	558.04	29.6092	Implant 32	Read 1	741.36	54.7585
	Read 2	653.73	43.2205		Read 2	999.83	75.7121
Implant 12	Read 1	526.90	45.8630	Implant 33	Read 1	456.32	32.3104
	Read 2	709.03	53.6445		Read 2	634.10	44.4387
Implant 13	Read 1	375.80	52.1134	Implant 34	Read 1	798.46	61.9316
	Read 2	465.99	63.0572		Read 2	1126.65	86.7043
Implant 14	Read 1	619.87	57.1285	Implant 35	Read 1	357.15	29.7657
	Read 2	737.64	67.9829		Read 2	705.49	38.3844
Implant 15	Read 1	497.21	27.1044	Implant 36	Read 1	951.35	63.9821
	Read 2	565.98	28.2222		Read 2	1318.19	88.4434
Implant 16	Read 1	485.34	33.1811	Implant 37	Read 1	645.91	45.2676
	Read 2	650.35	46.4535		Read 2	905.07	63.3580
Implant 17	Read 1	538.76	36.4786	Implant 38	Read 1	831.64	58.0713
	Read 2	795.20	52.2081		Read 2	1273.45	86.9213
Implant 18	Read 1	533.99	35.3252	Implant 39	Read 1	597.31	46.3778
	Read 2	807.55	52.9807		Read 2	761.79	60.2866
Implant 19	Read 1	624.83	39.6334	Implant 40	Read 1	671.82	49.0550
	Read 2	924.74	61.5744		Read 2	887.54	64.6009
Implant 20	Read 1	701.01	46.7414	Implant 41	Read 1	493.71	34.9398
	Read 2	908.50	60.0486		Read 2	590.29	42.3157
Implant 21	Read 1	583.69	46.0323	Implant 42	Read 1	746.36	53.4637
	Read 2	774.52	62.4331		Read 2	879.67	63.2797

Read 1 = 1 day postoperative bone density & Read 2 = 4 months postoperative bone density

4. Discussion:

CBCT low sensitivity to metallic artifacts makes it the technique of choice in the follow-up of cochlear implants, *Hodez et al., (2011)*. In implant imaging,

CT delivers the highest radiation dose to the salivary glands, whereas the CBCT system delivers the lowest dose. Irrespective of imaging modality, during implant imaging, salivary glands receive most

radiation, *Chau and Fung (2009)*. CBCT imaging has the advantage of allowing thinner acquisition slices compared with medical computed tomography, *Kim et al., (2007)*. Furthermore, in recently introduced CBCT, magnification of images did not occur, allowing it being used for accurate clinical procedures, *Yim et al., (2011)*. CBCT has also the potential to reduce the size and cost of CT scanners, this emerging technology produces images with isotropic sub-millimeter spatial resolution with high diagnostic quality, short scanning times of about 10-30 seconds, and radiation dosages of up to 15 times lower than those of conventional CT scans, *Bangbose et al., (2008)*. For all these previous reasons, CBCT was the radiographic technique of choice to be used in our study of dental implants for densitometric analysis and assessment of osseointegration. In our study, CBCT was selected as a standard measure for calibration of other ways of densitometric analysis as there was a positive correlation between total bone mineral density measured by CBCT and by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) which is the most accurate technique for measuring real bone density as stated by *Marquezan et al., (2012)*. IDRISI Kilimanjaro software was selected at this study to be calibrated for densitometric analysis and osseointegration assessment around dental implant as it is available cheaper way than CBCT and more accurate tool than DIGORA for that purpose, it gives the mean bone density around dental implant with the standard deviation and the degree of freedom in an accurate way. This was in agreement with Radwan who designed a pilot study that compared the results elaborated by IDRISI Kilimanjaro software with those by DIGORA software and stated that no significant difference was found between the records of both softwares, but IDRISI Kilimanjaro software proved to be more accurate tool for densitometric analysis, *Radwan (2005)*. The very high positive correlation seen in our present study between bone density values measured by CBCT and IDRISI techniques at different time intervals; and the insignificant difference between coefficients of variation of both readings in both techniques indicate that IDRISI Kilimanjaro software is as much reliable as CBCT technique for densitometric analysis around dental implants. Furthermore, the highly significant bone density seen at 4 months postoperatively that means a highly significant formation of bone around dental implants by time obviate the highly significant osseointegration of dental implants involved in our study and supposed that IDRISI Kilimanjaro software could be a dependable sole way for assessment of osseointegration of dental implants. This is in agreement with *Dawoud (2009)* who used this

software as a sole way for evaluation of osseointegration of immediate dental implants in two groups of patients and stated that “accelerating bone deposition means enhancement of osseointegration and the results of that study revealed sustained increase in bone density throughout the follow-up periods; this increase indicated progressive osseointegration and increase bone density of variable degree within the two groups.”

In conclusion, IDRISI Kilimanjaro software could prove its validity and reliability in densitometric analysis around dental implants for assessment of osseointegration procedure when it is calibrated with CBCT and it is as accurate as CBCT for this purpose.

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