Surgically intensive procedures can be difficult for the patient to tolerate and to recover from. In 86 consecutive patients who received immediate implant placements following the extraction of maxillary or mandibular molars, we wanted to know if their post-therapy healing was eventful and if there were any particular adverse sequelae.

Criteria for inclusion
All patients in the Immediate Molar Implant Replacement series were included in the evaluation and follow-up.

Procedure
The patient records from initial evaluation through to patient discharge were reviewed. Patients with particular problems of discomfort or in healing were identified and assessments of the significance of the issues were then ranked.

All patients were telephoned the evening of their procedure to assess their level of post-operative pain, swelling, paresthesia and control of bleeding in the operation site.

Results
These were serious nor did they affect survival of the implant.

Discussion
Implant survival was excellent. Only one implant in the series was lost due to lack of initial stability.

Loss of Alveolus
All cases had some shrinkage of the alveolar complex, but this was notably less than found in a traditional two-stage protocol (Extraction, healing for three months, implant placement).

Post-Surgical Pain
This was not a major factor.

Sequestrum Formation
Three cases had sequestrum formation, two on the mandibular labial and one on the maxillary palatal. These probably came about as a result of the extraction and could not be attributed to the implant procedure. This was the most severe case, and it healed with a lower labial margin. The patient was unconcerned.

Conclusions
1. Immediate molar replacement can have a high rate of success.
2. The surgical protocol is not as complex as most doctors imagine.
3. It saves multiple surgical interventions, speeds therapy and reduces costs considerably.
4. Patient and referring dentist appreciation of the therapy is very positive.

Sequestrum was removed the region healed well, although with some loss of alveolar height, but this was not significant to the patients.