



BDIZ EDI General Meeting in Frankfurt am Main

An association with sound prospects

With every crisis comes opportunity—and BDIZ EDI has made good use of this opportunity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its online seminars reach all members and other interested dentists and dental teams, quickly and uncomplicatedly. In this third year of the pandemic, our “BDIZ EDI informs” online series demonstrates the flexible association’s flexible reaction to new laws and regulations.

In his review, delivered before the General Assembly in Frankfurt, BDIZ EDI President Christian Berger addressed two disastrous developments with a global impact: the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine. He reported that BDIZ EDI, along with its European partner associations, had issued a statement of solidarity with the people in Ukraine, and especially with the local health professionals, calling for support of relief efforts: “For example, Dr Markus Tröltzsch, member of the BDIZ EDI Board, has organised humanitarian aid transports to Ukraine.”

Berger also addressed three current issues within German health politics from a dental perspective.

1. Dentists have recently been included in the COVID-19 vaccination regulation. BDIZ EDI welcomes the fact that the 5th amendment to this regulation now allows us to vaccinate the public against COVID-19 on our own responsibility and after appropriate training. While the demand for vaccination appointments is fairly low at this point, this may change quickly in view of higher incidence rate and with the autumn season approaching.
2. Facility-based mandatory vaccination for nurses and other health care workers is consistent with the German constitution, as ruled by the Federal Constitutional Court in late May. The court held that the need to protect vulnerable groups outweighs the abridgement of the affected individuals’ fundamental rights.
3. On 1 July 2021, a new perio guideline came into force in Germany. At the same time, the catalogue of available services for patients covered by statutory health insurance (SHI) was amended to include the additional perio services. But the German health services landscape rests on two pillars—in addition to SHI, there is a not so small group of patients covered by private health insurance (PHI). Services provided to these private patients are subject to a standard schedule of fees – which is dated 2012 and 1988 and does not reflect the new guideline-based standard. This is a dilemma BDIZ EDI has pointed out for years: PHI patients are increasingly treated as second-class patients, and a comparison with the new SHI rules for perio treatments drives this fact home only all too clearly.

Expert Symposium and EuCC

Berger also reported that the Expert Symposium had been held in Cologne in 2022, this time once again as a live event. The 17th European Consensus Conference, convening remotely, had produced the updated (2022) Cologne ABC Risk Score for risk assessment ahead of implant treatments. The printed Guideline will be sent out to members shortly; it has also been published in issue 2/2022 of our *EDI Journal*. A place and date for the 18th Expert Symposium has also been set (Cologne, 18–19 February 2023).

“BDIZ EDI informs”

The “BDIZ EDI informs” webinars have been successfully held since the pandemic began. Berger announced the series’ upcoming events in the second half of 2022, covering topics such as billing questions, legal issues, and high-quality dental continuing professional development: “From the beginning of the pandemic until the end of 2021, we were able to welcome 12,000 participants. By now, we should be approaching the 15,000 mark as our online seminar schedule continues to be very popular in 2022.” BDIZ EDI, Berger reported, uses mostly its own resources to fund the online seminar series: “At this point I would like to thank all those who are involved in board activities, whether as speakers, as hosts or as organisers in the background. In particular, I would like to mention Stefan Liepe, Wolfgang Neumann, Jörg Neugebauer, Freimut Vizethum and our legal adviser, Thomas Ratajczak. Special thanks is due to Anita Wuttke, who has designed, organised and co-hosted the series.”

Curricula

October 2022 will see the launch of the 24th Curriculum Implantology by BDIZ EDI and the University of Cologne. The Curriculum has been an overwhelming success story, with some eight hundred participants to date successfully completing the course. More than 80 per cent of them have been retained as BDIZ EDI members.

Communication

In order to save on money and other resources, BDIZ EDI keeps its members informed in a timely manner through the medium of its newsletter, “Subscribers will regularly receive news about current developments and, of course, about impending virtual and face-to-face events”, Berger reminded the audience. The newsletter currently has 2,300 subscribers.

Fee-related issues

The BDIZ EDI hotline for private dental billing issues was established in 2017. Berger reported that it was now quite heavily frequented. This is in addition on practical tips on billing and accounting in BDIZ EDI publications.

Consensus Conferences

BDIZ EDI not only participates in the Consensus Conferences on implantology, but also in the guideline conferences of DG PARO, DGI and DGZMK to contribute the broad professional competence of its oral implantologists. “It is important for us to be represented there so we can address in a timely manner any developments that seem to be going the wrong way”, explained Berger.

Expert opinions

The 32nd Expert Conference on oral implantology had been held only a few hours before the General Meeting in Frankfurt. Berger pointed out that it was the first Conference led by Dr Stefan Liepe, who became Chair of the Expert Conference in 2022.

Europe

The 15th Europe Symposium was held in Karlovy Vary in May 2022, jointly with the dental associations of Czechia and Austria and the dental chambers of the German states of Saxony and Bavaria. BDIZ EDI was represented by speakers Christian Berger and Professor Joachim E. Zöller.

IDS 2023

The 100th International Dental Show (IDS) will be held in March 2023, once again in Cologne as tradition dictates. The BDIZ EDI will be present there again, Berger reported. For BDIZ EDI, participation there is a must to “stay in the game”, presenting itself together internationally with its partner associations as a go-to instance for all questions related to implantology, dental billing and health care law.

Publications, web, social networks

Berger reminded the participants that the BDIZ EDI newsletter with up-to-date news and online seminar announcements is available for subscription on the BDIZ EDI website (www.bdizedi.org/newsletter-registrierung). He encouraged members to use of the member access on the website. “This is where to re-watch the webinars, download important forms or checklists, and peruse the database of court rulings.” BDIZ EDI is also present on social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Members are encouraged to follow BDIZ EDI there.

The board

The work of the BDIZ EDI board did not go unmentioned in Berger’s review: “In these times of pandemic, our board members have worked with great passion and commitment to pass on valuable information and our recommendations to you. I would like to thank Joachim E. Zöller, Jörg Neugebauer, Detlef Hildebrand, Stefan Liepe, Wolfgang Neumann, Freimut Vizethum, Renate Tischer, Nathalie Khasin and our most recent addition, Markus Tröltzsch. Thank you so much for your great support!”

Membership

BDIZ EDI currently has 2,300 members – a minor decrease that is owed to demographics, despite gains in new members in 2020 and 2021 owed especially to the

online seminar series and the Curriculum. “It is becoming clear”, said Berger, “that we have still many first-generation members who have been in working in their practices for more than twenty or even thirty years, but there are also members who are gradually resigning from their practices. Most of them nevertheless choose to remain members—which makes us happy. This clearly and favourably reflects on the association and its work. On the other hand, we also need new blood to remain strong in the face of internal and external challenges and to be able to react to new laws, regulations and ordinances. I would like to appeal to you to help us remain strong. Talk to your junior staff in your practice, show them what we are capable of—not least in these difficult times.”

Concluding his review, the BDIZ EDI President thanked the employees of BDIZ EDI: Brigitte Nötzel in Cologne, Helga Karanikas in Munich and Marion Kerstin Salhoff, who is in charge of the billing hotline.

Continuing professional development

For years, Professor Joachim E. Zöller has been the Scientific Director of the association. His duties include the search for

suitable topics and speakers at the Expert Symposia, the European Consensus Conferences and the annual symposia. Zöller, who is also BDIZ EDI Vice President, has not only initiated the Curriculum Implantology but is also responsible for its contents. Curriculum 23 has now been completed with two parallel courses. Curriculum 24 will start in October. The participants are highly satisfied with the highly relevant Curriculum Implantology of BDIZ EDI with their modular design, Zöller reported. “Previously, we’d be getting participants who had already placed a thousand implants or more. Today, the trend is that we are seeing newcomers to the profession.” Zöller considers the uniform received opinion taught in the Curriculum the secret of its success—being able to draw on reliable sources is important for newcomers to the profession.

For Zöller, the Curriculum Implantology and the Expert Symposium in Cologne are flagships of BDIZ EDI. The annual guidelines developed by the European Consensus Conference are pioneering and groundbreaking endeavours. Zöller announced that the next, that is, the 18th Expert Symposium in February 2023 will provide an update on short, angulated and reduced-diameter implants. With its combination of the Expert Symposium and the European Consensus Conference, BDIZ EDI

promotes new scientific findings every year. Most recently, the 2012 guideline on the Cologne ABC Risk Score for implant treatment has been updated, now available as the current 2022 guideline. All told, Zöller considers the European Consensus Conference of BDIZ EDI the top source of received knowledge on the European level—even if, or specifically because, it is not always fully in agreement with official guidelines.

Guidelines offer extra latitude

Professor Jörg Neugebauer, BDIZ EDI Secretary General, spoke about his involvement with the European Consensus Conference and his work as Chair of the Quality and Registration (Q&R) Committee. In the latter, there is now a trend away from material testing and more in the direction of concepts and ideas—often as a complement to official guidelines. “Our guidelines — their name notwithstanding—offer much more latitude than the official guidelines”, he pointed out. Looking at implantology indication classes, which have hardly changed for years, we see how sustainable the efforts of BDIZ EDI have been.

The Chair of the Expert Committee, Dr Stefan Liepe, thanked Dr Michael Frank, President of the Hesse State Dental Association, this year’s cooperation partner of



In Frankfurt am Main, the board reported on its work during the past year.

the Expert Committee in Frankfurt. He announced the 33rd Expert Conference on behalf of the Consensus Conference, to held on 1 July 2023 with the Schleswig-Holstein State Dental Association.

Digital transformation within BDIZ EDI

In his role as Secretary and Managing Director, Liepe explained the restructuring process that BDIZ EDI was currently undergoing, with the digitalisation of many processes and the relocation of the BDIZ EDI office to Munich. "Our team member Brigitte Nötzel will embark on her well-deserved retirement at the end of the year, so the board has decided to close the Cologne office." There has also been a change in banking provider, from Commerzbank to Deutsche Apotheker- und

Ärztebank. The new association software will allow invoices and office documents to be increasingly generated digitally. Liepe held out the prospect of cost savings in the future.

Financials

Dr Wolfgang Neumann, BDIZ EDI Treasurer, presented the budget, citing IDS 2019 as one of the major line items on the expenditure side. To be able to finance the digital transformation mentioned by Liepe, a reserve fund of €60,000 has been created, made possible in part by reduced board travel expenses during the pandemic. Following the presentation of the budget for 2023 and the report by auditor Dr Maximilian Grimm, who certified that the accounts were sound and properly kept, the general meeting unanimously

granted the board discharge and approved the 2023 budget. For some years now, provisions have been made in accordance with the specifications of the board in order to be able to finance major projects (legal steps to be taken in the area of the standard schedule of fees [GOZ], publications such as the new BDIZ EDI table of fees, etc.).

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