

Compromised patients, yet no peri-implantitis

Interview with Dr Sofia Karapatakis on her new long-term study on Patent™ Implants

Conducted in collaboration with the Medical University of Graz, a new independent study followed patients treated with the two-piece Patent™ Dental Implant System for a minimum of five and up to 12 years and found no cases of peri-implantitis—even in those with compromised health. The study was led by Athens-based implant specialist and researcher Dr Sofia Karapatakis, and in this interview, she talks about the need for a reliable tooth replacement solution that works in challenging cases too—and continues to perform well over the long term.

Congratulations on the publication of your long-term study on two-piece Patent™ Implants in the *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, a renowned high-impact journal in implant dentistry. What surprised you the most about the results?

Everyday dentistry can be very challenging. In my private dental clinic in Athens, I treat every patient who walks through my practice doors. These patients in need of tooth replacements often present with typical risk factors for dental implant treatment—either local ones such as periodontitis or general health conditions such as osteoporosis or diabetes. These patients are usually considered far from ideal dental implant candidates. Commonly, these patients are under medication, have poor oral hygiene or are heavy smokers. Also, compliance—which is crucial for the longevity of implants—among these patients is often not as high as we would hope it to be.

Furthermore, even in “ideal” patients, we as practitioners cannot guarantee that their state of health will remain the same in the future. For instance, I have had patients who developed cancer and underwent intense medical treatments. These patients had dental implants and the challenge was to follow them up appropriately. My long-term study included exactly these sorts of patients that I treat daily in my practice. What surprised me the most was that, even in these challenging cases, the two-piece Patent™ Implants investigated yielded remarkable results. The most remarkable was that, even after 12 years, no instances of peri-implantitis and a very low number of cases of peri-implant mucositis were found.

Why did you choose Patent™ as your implant system?

I was determined to find a tooth replacement solution that works in the challenging cases I mentioned. It was difficult to find a system supported by extensive



research. To my surprise, I learned that fewer and fewer implant systems today undergo comprehensive scientific evaluation before they are introduced into the market. This means less predictability and higher risk for patient and surgeon alike. In contrast, Patent™ has been extensively investigated in scientific studies, including long-term clinical trials.

Following up on the Patent™ Implants you placed, what did you observe?

I observed stable marginal bone levels and healthy soft-tissue completely free of inflammation during annual recalls—even in patients with preexisting health conditions and poor oral hygiene. For instance, I observed cases where the bone and soft-tissue around a Patent™ Implant remained unaffected by chronic tissue inflammation around both adjacent teeth, a sensational finding!

How can this be explained?

The key to success lies in the strong and intimate soft-tissue adhesion to the transmucosal surface of the Patent™ Implant, serving as an ideal defense barrier against bacteria. Additionally, fast healing has been observed around Patent™ Dental Implants in studies, ensuring greater safety in compromised patients, who typically show a pattern of slower healing.

Why did you initiate this long-term study on two-piece Patent™ Implants?

I found it remarkable how well this implant system performed in the patients encountered daily in my practice. That is why I wanted to validate my clinical experiences and analyse the performance of this tooth replacement solution in a scientific setting. The study results speak for themselves: no peri-implantitis after up to 12 years, only 7.7% peri-implant mucositis at the patient level, survival and success rates of 100%, and no prosthetic complications.

What is your conclusion based on these long-term results?

If Patent™ performs exceptionally well over the long term in my pool of compromised patients, as both the study findings and my clinical experience prove, then trust me: The results will last everywhere! In my opinion, this system is the best choice for every patient and dentist.

Dr Karapataki, thank you for the interview!

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