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Don Quixote—quitting is no option

Let's begin with a brief history lesson: the earliest attempts at dental prosthetics date back to the 5th millennium BCE. Archaeological illustrations show how shell fragments were used to replace extracted teeth. Remarkably, this material came directly from nature—composed of calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, silicates, clay minerals, and organic components.

Even in ancient times, dentures made of ivory or walrus tusks were common. These "teeth" were secured with gold bands and threads around neighbouring teeth.

Then, in 1806, Giuseppangelo Fonzi may have invented the first artificial ceramic tooth, designed to meet both functional and aesthetic standards. This innovation was a milestone, paving the way for further development in dental solutions.

Starting in the 1960s, the focused development of dental implants began. Early attempts were made with aluminium oxide to create a system that could be mass-

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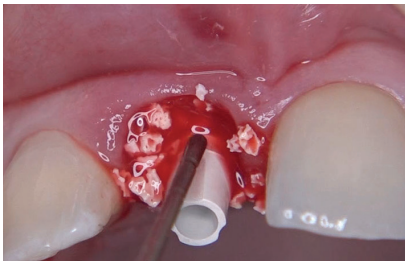

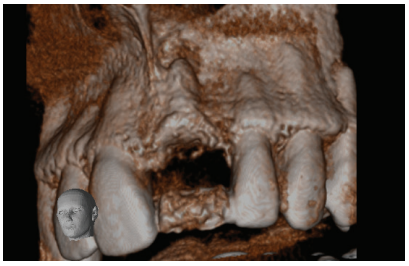

produced. Although there were setbacks, the idea of a metal-free alternative to popular titanium implants stuck with many pioneers. In the 1990s, they developed new solutions using zirconia, a type of ceramic that was stronger and more resilient than aluminium oxide. The benefits of this new material were quickly recognised in the dental field.

Where are we today? Zirconia implants have now shed their niche status and established themselves in modern dentistry. From a small group of enthusiasts, a global network of experts has emerged. They regularly exchange ideas, bringing fresh perspectives to the industry, which in turn continuously refines these materials.

And where will this lead? We don't know for sure. But we do know that ceramic implantology remains a niche for many and is sometimes underestimated due to the material's specific properties. However, zirconia implants, as stated by numerous studies and committees, now offer a competitive alternative to metal. Although ceramic implantology is sometimes viewed with skepticism, many advanced concepts have developed around the implanting process itself, contributing significantly to successful treatments.

Ceramic implantology is neither magic nor a game; it is serious business, and those specialising in this field deserve to be taken seriously. With *ceramic implants*, we aim to provide all ceramic implantology specialists with a platform and a voice.

So, let's not give up—let's break down the barriers standing in our way together and let us continue to fight against the windmills of scepsis, harsh critic and laughter. Don Quixote 2.0.

Sincerely

Timo Krause

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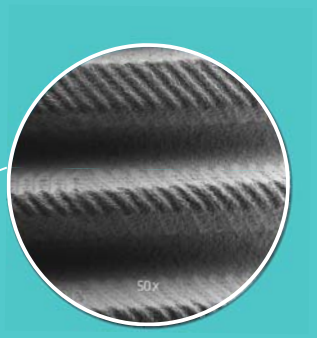

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