

To know **when** to do! To know **when** not to do!



Dr Rolf Vollmer

Dental implantology has experienced a substantial change in the last 25 years. The treatment spectrum has been significantly expanded; simultaneously, our patients' expectations and demands in implant treatment have developed disproportionately. In addition, implant dentistry now is also an integral part of everyday dental practice. In spite of the growing importance of oral implantology, most dentists receive their education in implant dentistry after graduation with only little emphasis on the complexity and risks of implant treatment. Providing our patients with quality implant treatment motivates us to give the best our profession has to offer. This does however not imply that our treatments must be perfect to 100 per cent, since perfection such as this does not exist in the practice of implant dentistry. Instead, we must strive to achieve the best we can do for our patients. We need to work either as individuals or as members of a team to assure that implant treatment is safe, effective, and aesthetically acceptable. We can all play a part in providing quality dental implant treatment by being there for the patient with skills that are attained by proper education, experience, and counsel from those who have gained the necessary skills, knowledge, and judgment.

For 42 years, DGZI has organized its annual conferences in order to inform about scientific insights and "truths" established by research and evidence-based clinical observations. Not only for novice clinicians is attaining the proper education a continuing process, but it is also an ongoing enterprise for the highly experienced clinician. New developments occur with each passing day. Therefore, providing the best we can do for our patients and profession becomes an impossible task if we keep our blinders on and persist in our practice as we did yesterday. As early as the beginning of the 1990s did DGZI begin to administer an examination for particularly qualified colleagues, allowing them to both revise and prove their knowledge and skills to the advantage and the safety of their patients. The Curriculum Implantology was established as a systematic education for the newcomers as well as for the experienced implantologist. Some thousand colleagues have since passed the education successfully. A subsequent master studies postgraduate program can be attended additionally for more theoretical skills. In addition, a specialist and German board (GBOI) international examination was established by DGZI for clinicians who want to have their theoretical and practical experience tested by an international examination board. One of this year's DGZI highlights will be our International Annual Meeting in Hamburg from 5 to 6 October titled "Quality Oriented Implantology—Ways to Long-Term Success". Complex situations in dental implantology and the digitalization of surgery and prosthetics are discussed, along with a periimplantitis special session and discussion. Take your chance and register for the meeting as well as the German board and specialist examination. You can request more information from our central office in Düsseldorf (Tel. +49 211 1697077). I invite you all to join us and enjoy Hamburg where it is most beautiful, directly located on the Elbe River—at the heart of the harbour! Indulge in new culinary creations and an unforgettable atmosphere, combining state-of-the-art scientific meeting with maximum relaxation. Sincerely Yours,

1st Vice president of DGZI