

Short implants

An interview with Prof. Dr Christoph Hämmerle, Switzerland

Source_Institut Straumann AG



Prof. Dr Hämmerle

Looking at the recent publications in implant dentistry, we see an increased interest in short implants. What can be considered a short implant and what do you think is driving the professional interest in these implants?

There are different definitions for short implants. The EAO consensus conference defined them as 8 mm and less. The key interest is that with short implants you can provide less invasive treatments. Furthermore, short implants can lead to fewer complications and less morbidity. They decrease the costs, can deliver more predictable outcomes and are also easier to perform in many cases. With short implants sometimes you need less complex diagnostics and you run fewer risks. All these factors make short implants an attractive option, often providing a completely different strategy for implant placement.

You mentioned many cases where short implants make a difference. What do you see as indications that can be treated with a short implant?

Short implants would primarily be used in the posterior segment of the jaw, as in the anterior segment there is generally a sufficient bone height for a regular implant. In addition, in atrophic mandible and maxillary, where the vertical space is limited, short implants are also very valuable.

The latest improvements in implant materials and surfaces promise higher osseointegration and mechanical stability of implants. Do you believe

these properties can compensate for the smaller implant dimensions?

Yes, absolutely, this has clearly been demonstrated—medium-rough surfaces provide a better anchorage in the surrounding bone compared to smoother type of surfaces. This property is the key that makes shorter implants possible. Previous studies have shown that short implants with 10 mm or less had a lower rate of osseointegration and lower clinical success, but we don't see the same in implants with medium-rough surfaces.

I think advances in implant surface technologies offer the kind of anchorage that implants with more traditional surfaces could not achieve in the past. Hence, short implants can deliver a good anchorage nowadays in situations with limited bone height.

What kind of indications do you see as a challenge for this implant? Could a short implant be a good alternative to avoid vertical augmentation?

Most publications describe the use of the short implants primarily in the posterior region. Short implants are valuable in the maxilla to avoid sinus lift augmentation, while in the mandible they help to avoid vertical ridge augmentation.

A challenging indication could be a patient requiring a short implant because of a reduced bone height, but still needing an additional augmentation procedure due to the insufficient bone width.

Alternatively, in the sinus area, in cases of soft bone, it would be difficult to get a good anchorage with a short implant. The healing time needs to be increased and implant loading delayed to ensure an undisturbed osseointegration process.

Thank you Prof. Hämmerle, do you have any additional comment about short implants?

As implant technology progresses, I expect to see more innovative solutions which provide less invasive, less costly and more straightforward types of treatments. I believe such progress is in the interest of the dentist, the patient and the industry.



ACADEMY OF PROSTHODONTICS

International Congress 2014

May 16/17, 2014
Congress Center Kursaal
Bern, Switzerland

IN COLLABORATION WITH
SWISS SOCIETY FOR
RECONSTRUCTIVE DENTISTRY



SSRD

WELCOME TO BERN

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the International Congress of the Academy of Prosthodontics 2014, which will be held in Co-Sponsorship with the Swiss Society for Reconstructive Dentistry. This exciting professional meeting, the first of its kind, will take place on May 16–17, 2014 at the Congress Center Kursaal in the beautiful City of Bern, Switzerland. It will feature a world-class scientific program with expert panelists from both sides of the Atlantic.

I want to thank the Board of the Swiss Society of Reconstructive Dentistry for its willingness to partner, and the Center for Continuing Dental Education of the University of Bern for its great assistance with meeting organization and logistics.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you next May in Bern!

Sincerely,

Hans-Peter Weber, President,
The Academy of Prosthodontics



SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

Urs Belser, SUI	Carlo Marinello, SUI
Urs Braegger, SUI	Konrad Meyenberg, SUI
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Robert Kelly, USA	Hans-Peter Weber, USA
Kenneth Malament, USA	Nicola Zitzmann, SUI

FRIDAY, MAY 16

08:40 – 12:45	SESSION 1
14:00 – 17:45	SESSION 2
18:00	SSRD Cocktail Reception

SATURDAY, MAY 17

09:05 – 11:05	SESSION 3
12:30 – 14:30	SESSION 4

More Information:

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