



Implant design of the future

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In 1981 Thomas Diskrell developed the Titanodont-implant, which was perfected and patented under the name DB Precision four years later. Today it is known under Bicon Dental Implant System. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary Georg Isbaner, editor of the *implants magazine*, spoke with Prof. Mauro Marincola about the history of the special implant-design, the importance of the German market for Bicon and the future of the dental market.

_Prof. Marincola, this year Bicon is celebrating its 30th year on the market. How important is this anniversary for the company?

It is not only a special anniversary, but also a 30-year history of an implant design that has prevailed without substantial changes and fulfils modern implantology standards: double platform switching, bevelled implant shoulder, healing chambers and bacterial seal.

_How is your company celebrating the anniversary?

Since New Year's Eve, we have been celebrating this event with our loyal customers. The festivities are taking place in all of the countries in which we are represented. Additionally, we arranged some special events. Particularly noteworthy are an exciting boat party on the Rhine during the International Dental Show and recently a three-day programme of exclusive parties, dinners and presentations in Rome for our closest members and customers. The celebratory tour will continue in June in Rome, after the Giornate Romane congress organised jointly by OEMUS MEDIA and Bicon (19 and 20 June), and be brought to a triumphant conclusion at our headquarters in Boston in the US after a trip to South America.

_When did you start working with this system, which is unlike other implant systems?

I placed my first Bicon implants in 1992, when they were still named Stryker Precision. Even then, short implants for non-interlocking single crowns in the posterior area were available to clinicians. In

comparison with standard implants, they offered a great clinical advantage, because with the standard implants at the time substantial bone structures were necessary to implant in atrophic bone. The Aha moment came with the initial uncovering and prosthetic restoration: seeing the implant completely surrounded by bone and without any bone damage after loading was a great experience. Furthermore, I was impressed by the simplicity and speed of the prosthetic procedures, because Bicon's conical connection does not need a horizontal index.

—Bicon has contributed significantly to the establishment of short implants. From a surgical perspective, what distinguishes working with Bicon implants?

Specific training is necessary to perform the system's surgical procedure, because it is not a conventional screw implant but a press-fit implant. The osteotomies are performed without water-cooling and at only 50 rpm with special titanium drills, allowing for a substantial amount of autologous bone to be harvested. This slow, clear and minimally invasive technique allows for excellent control of surgery, so that short implants can be placed in challenging bone conditions and augmentative procedures can be avoided.

—Bicon products are in keeping with the current trend regarding minimally invasive treatment techniques.

Currently, patients set the trend because they are much better informed than even ten or 20 years ago owing to the Internet. Most patients want to avoid augmentation for various reasons and increasingly opt for minimally invasive care through short implants, which are used in the native bone. We dentists have to learn that the term "short implant" is not always a guarantee of long-term preservation. Therefore, the design of short implants should fulfil strict criteria.

—How important is the German market for Bicon?

In my view, the German market is the most important worldwide—a showcase for all manufacturers. In recent years, we have achieved clinical and commercial recognition, also owing to the close cooperation with OEMUS MEDIA.

—At the International Dental Show, you presented the CAD/CAM framework material TRINIA. What is it and what distinguishes it?

The TRINIA CAD/CAM discs and blocks are made of a multidirectional interlacing of fibreglass and resin. For dental technicians and dentists, TRINIA is suitable for the fabrication of copings, substructures of permanent or provisional anterior or posterior crowns, bridgework and telescoping restora-



tions. Substructures can be cemented or not cemented. TRINIA is metal-free, lightweight, durable and elastic, biocompatible and adaptable. During processing, no firing is required and it offers unique mechanical properties with high flexural and compressive strength.

—What is on for the second half of the year?

As already indicated, we are continuing our anniversary celebrations in the various countries, as well as attending several congresses. In Germany, we are pleased to be involved in the events being organised by OEMUS MEDIA.

Thank you very much for your time and the conversation.

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