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Ceramic implants—game changer in dental implantology

Dear colleagues,

A specialist magazine exclusively concentrating on ceramic implants is a highly welcomed medium of information for all dentists working in the field of implantology. Ceramic implants have been the focus of the implantological community for a long time now and have reached full clinical approval by undergoing the same developmental stages as did titanium implants before.

From 2018 on, this brand new supplement on ceramic implants will be published twice a year presenting its subject matter as a highly complex and mani-faceted topic. By doing so, it offers practitioners a unique opportunity to exchange information based on the latest clinical and scientific findings. Against this backdrop, the fascination emanated by the “White Gold” will certainly not come up short. Being a long-term user myself I can confirm that ceramic implants do indeed polarize, and yet they also bring great pleasure to dentists and patients alike, thanks to their excellent clinical results and aesthetics.

It will be very exciting to see how this topic will officially and academically be approached by the big scientific associations in the future. After an initial phase of extreme reluctance, more and more initiatives are brought forward to create scientific data around the progressive development of ceramic implants and to communicate and present those results at scientific congresses. It's merely a matter of time before the first consensus recommendation based on evidence-driven data will be formulated for practitioners. However, in

addition to those affirmative developments, inconsistent quality standards of systems currently available on the market are a significant problem: The production of micro-rough zirconia surfaces as well as ceramic implants is a rather complex venture, putting high demands on the expertise and know-how of industry partners.

Ceramic implants are the last link in the chain of zirconium dioxide, a material that has so far positively influenced conservative and prosthodontic dentistry by making it largely metal-free. As a biological and metal-free alternative to titanium is now also available for the field of oral surgery, various groups of patients can henceforth be reached that previously rejected dental implants due to the ever-present titanium.

If one believes the recent IDS 2017 market analyses, ceramic implants are broadly considered as implantology's “game changer”. They will most likely take centre stage in scientific discussions at future congresses, gain further global popularity as a research topic in academic circles and increase their present market penetration of currently 0.2 per cent in 2016 to 2 per cent in 2020, and even 8 per cent in 2025.

With this in mind, I wish all of those responsible for this present edition every success in implementing and establishing this topic, and I am convinced that this initiative will be successful in its contribution to further reduce communication deficits about ceramic implants.

Sincerely,
Dr Michael Gahlert