

# Metal-free restoration from A to Z

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Today, more and more patients both desire and require metal-free dental provisions. Experts are therefore talking of a major, if not mega trend comparable to the organic food sector and the constantly growing range of organic products. According to a survey conducted by Straumann, 53 per cent of the respondents would leave—quite rightly so—the choice of implant material to their dentist. However, 35 per cent of those patients surveyed would choose ceramic implants and only 10 per cent would settle for titanium implants as a substitute for their natural teeth (N.N. 2 per cent).<sup>1</sup>

After ten years of development and experience gained from more than 30,000 placed implants, ZERAMEX® offers an alternative to titanium implants which is 100 per cent metal-free. This alternative could help to reduce local and systemic inflammations in patients suffering from titanium intolerance, which is caused by the interference of titanium dioxide particles with the human body. Those particles result from corrosion and abrasion processes and are phagocytised by tissue macrophages. Subsequently, this may lead to chronic and unspecific inflammatory reactions, and, ultimately, to a lack of bone integration and other health problems.<sup>2-6</sup>

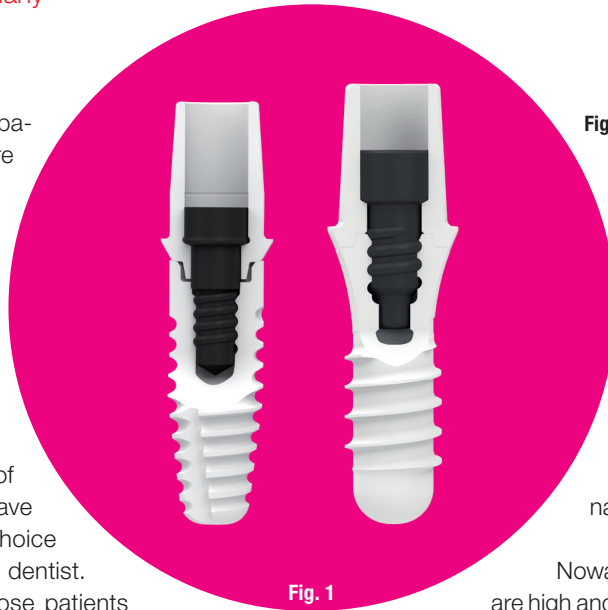


Fig. 1: The XT and P6 implant system.

## Meeting the patients' needs

The informed patient is subject to the consistency of his needs. He meets his dentist at eye level and wants to be objectively informed and advised on alternative treatment possibilities.

Nowadays, patients' expectations are high and varied: they want a safe treatment, normally concerning a missing tooth. They want a treatment that is free from health side effects offering them a natural dentition without any unwanted interactions with the human body or other dental materials. And, above all, patients request a natural aesthetic. However, the main argument for using ceramic implants is the material's positive impact on peri-implant soft tissue.<sup>7</sup> Blood circulation at ceramics corresponds to the natural tooth, whereas, in titanium, it is significantly reduced.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, ceramic material has shown a lower deposition of plaque and a lower bacteria adhesion.<sup>9,10</sup>

Modern patients consider their teeth as part of their whole body system, and not just as tools for the comminution of food. Patients know about the impact of ill teeth on the surrounding tissue, and the possible effects on or-

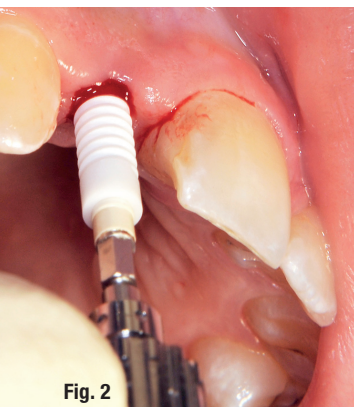


Fig. 2

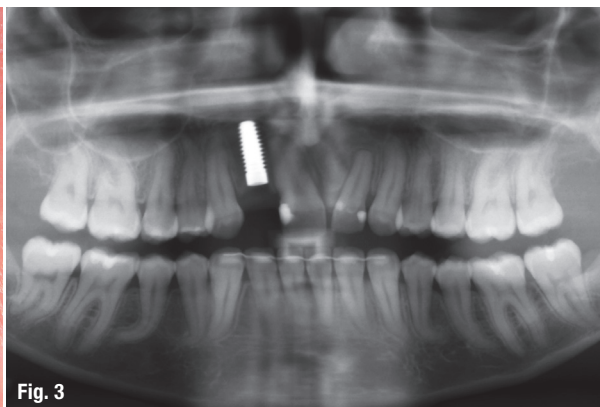


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Fig. 2: The implant body is inserted by hand. – Fig. 3: Postoperative X-ray, placed implant. – Fig. 4: Final situation after prosthetic loading.

gan and body functions. Furthermore, they are well aware of the treatment efforts with regards to psychological and physical exposures, and the time spent. With the ZERAMEX® P6 and ZERAMEX® XT implants, dentists meet the needs of their modern and informed patients. Although, ZERAMEX® implants have unique characteristics, they rank among the same price category as premium dental implants.

### Increasing interest among dentists

Ceramic implants have also gained a growing interest among dentists who wish to complement and widen their treatment spectrum. Further developments concerning material properties and implant surface have become increasingly faster.<sup>11-13</sup> With regard to osseointegration, ZERAMEX® implants are no longer inferior to titanium dental implants.<sup>14-16</sup> The clinical handling is comparable

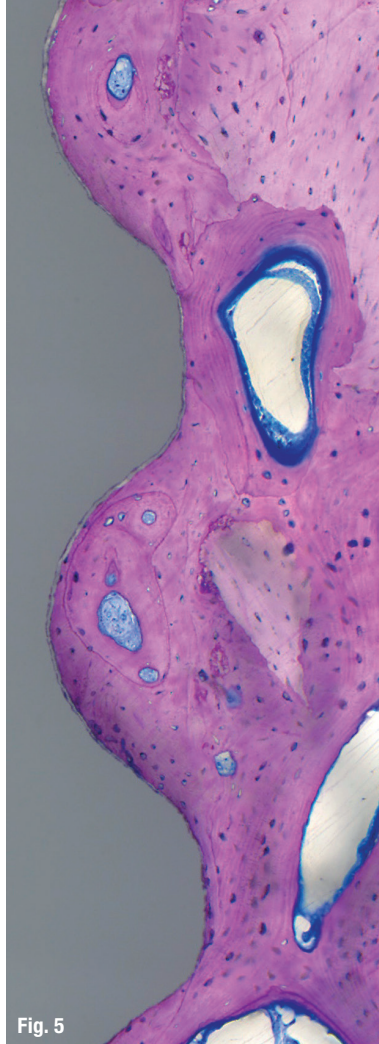


Fig. 5

Fig. 5: Osseointegrated ZERAMEX® T.

with those of modern implant systems and the safety of the treatment is proven in practice and science.

Today, medical dental services encounter tough competition. Thus, the modern practitioner must meet the need for metal-free provision by conviction. Furthermore, he advises his patients thoroughly, and positions himself at the market with services that will quickly become known, hence, strengthening his economic situation.

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