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Fifth International Z-Systems Congress

Source: Z-Systems

About 70 specialists from ten countries met in the middle of June in sunny Nice for an update about ceramic implants. The high-quality presentations both amazed and convinced the participants.

It's all about ceramics

The first day was devoted to well-known concepts from dental practice. Dr Gabor Roza (Switzerland) started the presentations, and focused on treating patients without teeth, with special consideration to decreasing manual skills in later years. Thus, he uses a two-piece ceramic implant with straight and angled Locator® abutments. Dr Christoph Blum (Germany) then compared various ceramic systems and proved the clear clinical benefits of Z-Systems. In particular, he assessed the ability to grind abutments and the implants in collaboration with the laboratory as an important benefit.

Subsequently, Dr Georg Bayer and ZTM Norbert Wichnalek (Germany) gave an impressive presentation. Both have many years of experience in implantology and

are personally convinced of the benefits of ceramic implants. Dr Bayer showed many successful immediate insertions of one-piece Z-Systems implants and immediate provision with temporary crowns. They also focused on the material and its handling. All ceramic implants are treated with plasma in their practice before implantation, which stimulates cell growth and leads to faster osseointegration. Dr Bayer and ZTM Wichnalek also showed that implant integration with plasma-treated ceramic functions better than titanium surfaces. They strongly advise against the use of PEEK and PEKK, because these two materials are a true plaque magnet. Further, the speakers pointed out that, for patients with a suspicion of periodontitis, one must conduct a titanium tolerance test, in order to meet their obligation of patient clarification.

Dr Jean-Louis Roche closed the programme in his practice which was only 50 metres away, with a smooth, live surgery with the new, two-piece bone-level implant. Afterwards, all participants enjoyed a social gathering in a nearby beach restaurant to the early morning hours.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Fig. 1: About 70 specialists from ten countries met in the middle of June for the Fifth International Z-Systems Congress in Nice, France. **Fig. 2:** Dr Lüttmann, Dr Bianca, Dr Eppe and Dr Piconi (from left). **Fig. 3:** Dr Bayer (left) and Dr Mellinghoff.

High-calibre ceramic specialists

The second day started with Dr Ted Fields from Texas, who showed impressive results in terms of case numbers and clinical quality. He has placed over 500 two-piece Z-Systems implants in addition to a large number of one-piece ceramic implants, and impressively showed their aesthetic superiority as compared to conventional solutions. Dr Fields' very interesting presentation showed the benefit of grinding the implant shoulder, which provides functional and aesthetic optimisation of the soft tissue.

Dr Jochen Mellinghoff was then presented as another high-calibre ceramic specialist. His many years of experience, now with the two-piece Z-Systems implant, convinced the participants. His conclusion: the screw-type, two-piece Z5s bone-level implant has the potential to exceed the usual standard of titanium implants in the near future, and to revolutionise the market. Dr Giancarlo Bianca from Marseille then presented convincing aesthetic photos. As a scientific referent for the French Association for Periodontology, as well as Continuing Education in Implantology at Corte University (France), he values serious documentation and predictable treatment protocols. His conclusion was quite practical: Soft tissue loves ceramic, and accumulates very well there.

Two substantive scientific lectures about zirconium oxide by Prof. Corrado Piconi and Dr Pascal Eppe again filled the auditorium to its maximum. Prof. Piconi, as a materials scientist (University of Rome, Italy) specialising

in ceramics technology, demonstrated the strengths and, of course, the special characteristics of zirconium dioxide in a very systematic manner. Dr Eppe (Belgium) on the other hand, pointed out various critical health aspects through a number of publications which have not yet received the attention they deserve on the use of metals in general, and in particular about titanium. Dr Ralf Lüttmann concluded the congress with an entertaining outlook on BoneWelding® in dental implantology, and showed new opportunities for the future which will be very exciting.

At its fifth international congress, Z-Systems proved with a good mixture and selection of speakers and topics why the company has achieved a technological leap over other ceramic systems. This concentrated skill in Nice was both clearly visible and tangible. The next congress will take place on 29 and 30 June 2018 in Valencia, Spain.

contact

Z-Systems AG

Werkhofstr. 5
4702 Oensingen, Switzerland
info@zsystems.com
www.zsystems.com