



Fig. 1

Fig. 1: The ESCI council: first row, from above and left to right: Jens Strohm, Jonny Wanda, Dr Dr Michael Gahlert, Thomas Bosshard, Rubino Di Girolamo, Prof. Dr Ralf Kohal; middle row: Michael Hotze, Birgit Renggli, Prof. Corrado Piconi, Isabella Moser, Dr Curd Bollen; front row: Prof. Jerome Chevalier, Dr Stefan Röhling, Dr Jens Tartsch.

First European council for ceramic implantology held

Ceramic implant dentistry is currently one of the fastest growing, most innovative, but often controversial discussed areas in dentistry. Intensive research and development, especially in the areas of material properties, surface design and restorative care, have led to ceramic implants of zirconium oxide being a credible factor in dental implantology in addition to titanium implants. Scientific data are already available, but need to be evaluated correctly. Remaining open questions must be discussed and answered with an evidence-based approach. In the interests of the dental practice and the concerned patients, an independent, non-profit-oriented, scientific and evidence-based society is required. This society was recently founded as the European Society for Ceramic Implantology—ESCI.

As a strong community, ESCI creates the link between science, practice and industry. It forms a Europe-wide, active network for all involved groups: scientifically recognised, experienced and renowned experts, interested and motivated users from practice and university, as well as competent and quality-oriented manufacturers and research institutions.

Specialists and leading manufacturers met

The first important step in this direction has now been done: The first European council for ceramic implantology of ESCI took place on 5 October 2018 at the Swiss Re “Centre for Global Dialogue” in Rüslikon, Switzerland. As part of the first council, specialists with the highest expertise in ceramic implantology met representatives of the leading manufacturers at the “round table”. The ESCI board and Scientific Advisory Board discussed scientific topics related to dental implantology with ceramic implants and defined the future tasks of the ESCI. The results were subsequently presented to the invited company partner of ESCI.

Participants for the ESCI were Prof. Dr Ralf Kohal (Germany), Dr Dr Michael Gahlert (Germany), Prof. Jerome Chevalier (France), Prof. Corrado Piconi (Italy), Dr Curd Bollen (Netherlands), ESCI President Dr Jens Tartsch (Switzerland) and ESCI Vice President Dr Stefan Röhling (Germany). Prof. Dr Dr Michael Payer (Austria), Prof. Dr Dr Werner Zechner (Austria) and Prof. Dr Mutlu Özcan (Switzerland) were connected by videocon-



Fig. 2

Fig. 2: From left: Prof. Dr Dr Werner Zechner, ESCI Vice President Dr Stefan Röhling, ESCI President Dr Jens Tartsch and Prof. Dr Dr Michael Payer at the ESCI press conference during the EAO meeting in Vienna in October 2018.

ference. The companies Straumann, Nobel Biocare, CAMLOG, Dentalpoint and Z-Systems were represented by high-ranking delegates.

A hub for scientific activities

ESCI is committed to promote dental implant ceramic implantology. It will form a hub for scientific activities, assess them correctly and provide comprehensive information. In future, members will not only be offered the usual added value, such as price reductions at events or web presence, but also concepts for direct and individual support in the use of ceramic implants in daily practice will be developed. In particular, this includes offers such as support forums, advanced training in treatment centres or literature summaries with direct practical reference. In October 2019, the first European congress for ceramic implantology of the ESCI will be planned. Details will follow.

A joint statement

However, as a special success of the first ESCI council it can be stated that for the first time it was possible to formulate a joint statement of science and industry on the current state of dental implantology with ceramic implants, which

was supported by all stakeholders and adopted by the council: Ceramic implants are an addition to the treatment spectrum in implant dentistry. They are a “hot” topic in implant dentistry and need a sound scientific and clinical approach. Moreover, the request for ceramic implants is increasing. Micro-rough zirconia implants show similar osseointegration rates as titanium implants. Furthermore, clinical investigations on zirconia implants report comparable results to titanium implants up to 5 years. Zirconia implants are recommended for clinical use. However, long-term results are currently missing to confirm the promising short-term and mid-term data. Optimised manufacture processes and standardisation of testing is needed.



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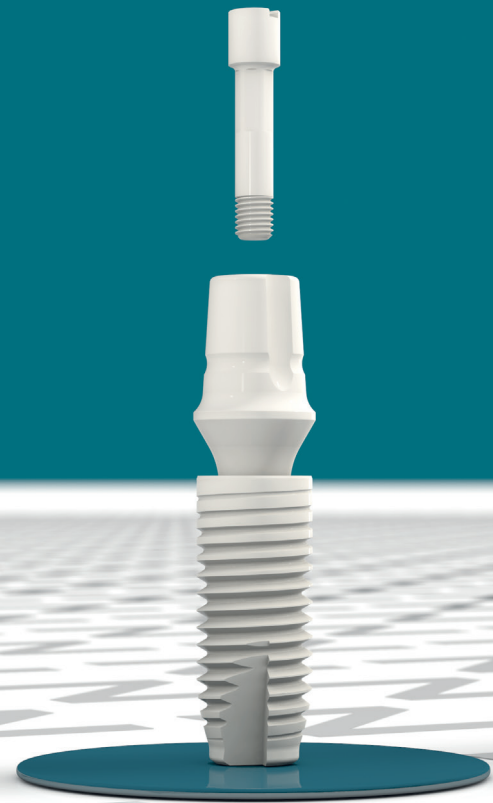
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