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# Ceramic implantology in times of a pandemic

Ceramic implantology has never been this multifaceted. The users are able to choose from a great repertoire of one- and two-piece implant systems by acknowledged vendors and manufacturers. Especially the two-piece implant systems promise great prosthetic variety and flexibility, otherwise only known from titanium systems. Multi-unit implant-supported works are now feasible for specific indications. Of course, all of that requires a high degree of education and training for the users to understand and master the advantages and limitations inherent in the system of the respective ceramic implant concept.

This leads me onto the main issue of this preface: the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. Under normal circumstances, numerous colleagues, experts and industry partners of ceramic implantology would have met at larger conventions in the upcoming days and weeks. They would have learned from each other, talked to each other, laughed and made plans for the future to ultimately better their abilities for the benefit of their patients. The new cooperations between expert associations would have been fleshed out. Unfortunately, all of that is currently not easily possible in the light of global restrictions on travel and larger gatherings. We fall back on phone calls, video chats, online tutorials and exten-

sively reading journals. In many countries, dental offices have grinded to a halt, with sometimes grievous economic consequences for owners, employees and patients. On top of that, scarcely any other profession is at a higher risk of being infected with the coronavirus as dental specialists and their assistants. Everyone is aware that the pandemic will change all areas of human coexistence. A, if not the prominent position is reserved for medicine and dentistry. The ramifications alone for patient management regarding hygiene measures and reducing the patients' and employees' risks of contagion will be a watershed.

It will be all the more important that dental specialists can offer their patients therapy options that are gentle and support the immune system. Our current knowledge about ceramic implants suggests that the material-specific properties exhibit good tolerability. So far, no adverse immune responses to zirconium dioxide are known.

On that note, I wish you an enlightening read and that you, your families and your fellow employees will weather this crisis well.

Sincerely yours, Georg Isbaner