

Dr Rolf Vollmer

First Vice President and Treasurer of DGZI



The role of **implantology** in coming years

Early in the 70s I was active in the field of implantology and I was convinced that dental implantology could develop into a scientifically recognised dental discipline following a large number of “trial and error” attempts. This dream came true and DGZI already in 1993 introduced an implantologist’s qualification by means of a standardised test. This was a completely new concept in Germany at that time. This qualifying examination has been named the “Implantology Specialist—DGZI”.

Considering the current trends, particularly the age stomatology, it becomes obvious that implantology will play an important role in the rehabilitation of older patients in the next 20 years. Further considering the fact that a large number of edentulous patients exists in many countries, there is a significant potential for treating many people who could benefit from this type of treatment. As the aesthetic demands of patients increase, we can assume that even in cases of the traumatic loss of teeth, implantology is the treatment of choice. On the one hand, a trend towards simpler and cheaper implants is observed in the industry, while on the other hand even so-called market leaders offer special types of implants at excessively high prices. As a logical consequence, the complete treatment becomes very expensive due to high material costs. Due to these concepts like “All-on-4” to “All-on-One”/“All-in-One” are promoted or implants reduced in diameter and length. Demands on aesthetics have dramatically increased today.

In my opinion, the current development has both its positive and negative aspects. I believe that it poses a par-

ticular problem for the newcomer because it suggests that implants can be inserted without problems into the jaw, perhaps with navigation, but without requiring a flap procedure. The comparison with the speed of vehicles should not be dismissed. Exceeding the speed limit on the highway may result in a fine. Exceeding the speed limit in implantology may lead to implant failure. I hope that the dental industry in future can help simplify the field of implantology by introducing standardised implant accessories or by consistently using existing standards. One example are the connecting screws (implant–abutment) which are only compatible with other systems in rare cases, as well as the corresponding screwdrivers or hex wrenches. A company should not need to prove its uniqueness by using connecting screws of a certain diameter or special threading with a particular pitch.

Let us see what is coming up in the next years and join our curriculum. The DGZI Curriculum as a first step in education will update you on the state of the art today and even experienced colleagues will have a chance to improve their knowledge.

We hope to see you in Germany! Join our DGZI family!

With best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Rolf Vollmer'.

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