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A beautiful smile—long-lasting and natural-looking

Cosmetically, a great deal can be concealed nowadays. However, what about sustainability? Have we as dental professionals not made the attempt to achieve *restitutio ad integrum* our highest goal? In oral surgery, this applies above all to the difficile rehabilitation of tooth gaps in the anterior area, which has unfavourable anatomical conditions for single-tooth restorations with dental implants.

This so-called restoration of the original form and function is challenging and can only be achieved through compromise, tricks and superior clinical expertise. To this end, we use materials that today promise high biocompatibility, and it is at this very point that the wheat is separated from the chaff. What was considered highly biocompatible yesterday is already being critically examined and called into question today. Consider how often, for instance, autologous bone grafting materials are scrutinised at prestigious conferences, whereas in contrast, artificial biomaterials only backed by sparse long-term results are being marketed.

Unlike industrially produced biomaterials, there is no lobby for autologous bone grafting materials, although they have proved to be clinically reliable for decades.

In modern-day implantology, tooth-coloured ceramic implants made of zirconium dioxide—zirconia—are considered a viable alternative to established titanium implants when it comes to the replacement of teeth in the aesthetic zone. A 2018 meta-analysis by Roehling et al. concludes that these ceramic implants show a higher biocompatibility in terms of plaque affinity and soft-tissue healing and that peri-implantitis occurs significantly less around these implants, as opposed to comparable titanium implants. If we were to expand the sound evidence base with more data, we would have made a small—or perhaps even a giant—leap forwards in terms of the development of biomaterials. We would then also be one step closer to imitating nature in a sustainable manner and achieving *restitutio ad integrum*, at least in a cosmetic sense.

I therefore urge you to stay critical and judge what is new always with a view to scientific evidence. This is the only way we will be able to debunk many of the fairy tales that have established themselves within our profession. With this in mind, I wish you an exciting read with this new issue of *ceramic implants—international magazine of ceramic implant technology*.

Yours, Prof. Michael Gahlert