

Implantology in the year of IDS



Prof Dr Dr Frank Palm

The 34th International Dental Show (IDS) in Cologne is just around the corner, bringing with it a challenging test for the international dental market. This dental show continues to grow, with approximately 1,900 exhibitors from 55 countries presenting their products in ten exhibition halls this year. We wait to see if an economic rebound has taken place, and if certain undesirable developments have been corrected.

The implantology market in particular suffered from volatility triggered by the financial crisis, and it is still not clear whether the industry can return to double digit growth rates in 2011. Considering the positive developments in the industry in the autumn of last year, and the high attendance numbers at this year's congresses and trade shows, many implantologists are optimistic. In particular, implant suppliers are keen to make a new start, and the IDS should provide a glittering display of innovations and numerous product launches. Digitalization in implantology, from 3-D diagnosis, digital dental impression-taking and computer-aided planning and navigation, through to prosthetic restorations manufactured by means of CAD/CAM, are likely to be the center of attention. Moreover, new and further developments in implant materials and designs, as well as new approaches to solutions for regenerative techniques will play an important role.

These developments provoke our curiosity, though it is clear that we cannot expect an "optimal solution" for all medical indications and a "golden standard" in implantology in the near future. Rather, many factors are important when it comes to finding the best solution for each individual case. Limiting factors on the patient's part e.g. funding, time, personal requirements, physical and psychological capacities, and most of all the skills of the dentist, are the most important criteria. Without the expert skills of a competent and experienced implantologist the best technique is useless. As an association of experts, it is our job to expose colleagues to this topic more intensely, and to ensure that the existing high standards in implantology are maintained in future.

Like all other important implantological associations, DGZI will be present at the IDS with its own stand, and we would be pleased and look forward to meeting you.

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