

Scientific evidence and clinical outcomes—the facts count

There are not many luminary figures that greatly influence future generations through their inventive spirit, humanity and visionary power. Prof. Sami Sandhaus undoubtedly was one of those people. Like no other, he paved the way for modern ceramic implantology. He was invited as a guest of honour by the European Society for Ceramic Implantology (ESCI) to its first congress, but passed away at the biblical age of 92 a week before the event began.

Prof. Sandhaus's path was one of research and science, and fortunately, the younger generation is gratefully continuing his legacy. In the most recent past, dental manufacturers and courageous clinicians have helped elevate the still rather young discipline of ceramic implantology. Gradually, the first ten-year data of university studies is emerging, and this research was showcased at the ESCI congress, as well as at the events held earlier this year by the European Academy of Ceramic Implantology (EACim), the International Academy of Ceramic Implantology (IAOCI) and the International Society of Metal Free Implantology (ISMI). Science is the bedrock on which ceramic implants as a recommended treatment modality rest.

Even if the available amount of scientific data is still quite modest, evidence in clinical practice is already available in great abundance. This brings us to this issue of ceramic implants—international magazine of ceramic implant technology, in which I am pleased to say that the most experienced clinicians in this medical field have shared their knowledge and expertise with us. Some of them have already placed thousands of ceramic implants and have been working with these metal-free systems for over ten years now. They all share a conviction that ceramic implants are a patient-friendly implant option—regardless of whether used for single-tooth restorations or complete prostheses.

In addition, the recent advancements made in ceramic implantology bring another aspect back in focus: the general health of the patient. Patients who wish to receive implant surgery often come to the dentist with systemic and/or immunological impairments. In some cases, metal-free oral rehabilitation is an essential part of the improvement process. The reasons for this are manifold and need to be investigated further in the future. Thanks to ceramic implants, however, the biological principles of oral health are beginning to be better understood in connection with general health. This is in keeping with the philosophy of Prof. Sandhaus.

Wishing you a great read,

Georg Isbaner