

Dr Rolf Vollmer

First Vice President and Treasurer of DGZI



The right measures at the right time

It was certainly one of the more memorable press conferences in recent dental history that Henry Schein held online on late Thursday afternoon at the end of February. Stanley M. Bergman, chairman of the board and CEO of Henry Schein, elaborated on questions about moral duties and entrepreneurial responsibility in times of a global health crisis. All over the world, people are losing trust in their governments, according to Bergman. It has become apparent that businesses are able to react more swiftly to the challenges posed by the pandemic than are governmental institutions owing to their innovation strength and flexibility. Procurement of validated personal protective equipment and especially vaccine development come to mind here. Bergman spoke in favour of global efforts to improve material and infrastructural requirements of healthcare systems to better fight the current and future pandemics.

In Germany, political entities and expert dental associations quickly switched to crisis mode, implementing improved hygiene guidelines in order to maintain dental care during lockdown. In an unprecedented response, it was the dental practices themselves who streamlined their patient management, readjusted their already outstanding hygiene protocols and implemented infection protection in shift operations, and thus strongly consolidated patients' trust in dental care. In doing so, Germany-based dentists set an international example.

The latest numbers from the German statutory occupational accident insurance association for non-state healthcare and welfare institutions in the Berufsgenossenschaft für Gesundheitsdienst und Wohlfahrtspflege (BGW) prove that, not only patients, but also practice staff are well protected against infections by consistent hygiene measures. In 2020, the BGW recorded 19,774 reportable occupational suspected cases of SARS-CoV-2—only 85 of which were related to the dental profession. Of course, these figures only hold true for Germany. Nevertheless, they bolster dental offices worldwide, because they indicate that, for dentists and their staff, a sustainable way out of the crisis with comparatively few infections is possible by appropriate crisis management in combination with a high standard of hygiene.

In this spirit, I wish you pleasant reading of the new **implants—international magazine of oral implantology**, continuously safe practice management and a great deal of courage to support your patients. After all, implantology is an integral part of sustainable healthcare!

Yours,

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

Dr Rolf Vollmer