



A Digest of Recent Trends, Techniques and Clinical Concepts of Dental and Facial Esthetics



### The FDA's New Position on Dental Implants

Thomas J. Balshi, D.D.S., F.A.C.P.

The FDA's Dental Products Review Panel's analysis of the need for standardized scientific and clinical study resulted in new guidelines. It is virtually impossible for a dental professional to select the most suitable form of treatment without solid documentation. The new FDA guidelines will make it possible to reliably prognosticate success or failure for any given implant system.

The field of implants is complex and involves many variables but no more so than most other contemporary medical procedures. A predictable prognosis can be achieved through both rigidly defined clinical procedures and well conducted longitudinal clinical trials. These are implicit in the FDA's guidelines and the premarket approval (PMA) process.

The FDA's guidelines will promote equality since every manufacturer can demonstrate the safety and efficacy of their own implants. FDA supervision will reduce the exaggerated claims by the manufacturers concerning success rates and clinical simplicity.

In medicine, the safety of the patient dictates that products are neither safe nor effective until proven to be so. The guidelines call for the completion of 3 years of prospective studies and 2 additional years of scrutiny after

continued on page 4

## Academy of Crown & Bridge — Scientific Session, Chicago 1989

### The UCLA Abutment

S. Lewis, D.M.D.; J. Beumer, D.D.S.; P. Moy, D.M.D.

The Branemark system was designed to fabricate fixed restorations for edentulous patients. When using the components in the restoration of partially edentulous patients several problems arise. First, adequate interocclusal distance between the abutment cylinder and the opposing occlusion may be lacking. Also, the exposure of the abutment cylinder as it emerges above the gingival crest may be esthetically displeasing, and finally, it may be difficult to develop ideal contours in the definitive restoration with the conventional components. This report describes the use of a newly developed means of using a customized transmucosal abutment in such a way as to connect the dental restoration to fit directly and precisely onto the osseointegrated fixture. Bypassing the titanium abutment and gold-palladium cylinder

continued on page 5

### Considerations in Posterior Glass-Ceramic Restorations

Kenneth Malament, D.D.S., M.Sc.D.

The glass ceramic restoration has been used clinically since 1978. Dicor has optical effects superior to commercially available feldspathic porcelain materials and is generally considered to be a restorative material for anterior teeth. This paper describes the rationale and the use of Dicor for individual complete or partial coverage restorations of posterior teeth.

Glass ceramic restorations have strength that is superior to that of dental feldspathic porcelain. They are susceptible to fracture by excessive tensile or lateral force only if they have deficient material thickness. To ensure strength and eliminate fracture due to function, a preparation depth and/or thickness of 1.2 to 1.5 mm is advocated. The author analyzed 1,077 glass ceramic crowns: 702 placed on posterior teeth and 375 on anterior teeth.

continued on page 5

### Photoelastic Analysis of Stress Transfer to the Supporting Structure by Endodontically Treated Teeth—The Influence of Different Restorative Techniques

David Assif, D.M.D.

Contradictory opinions exist regarding the inclusion of posts in the restoration of endodontically treated teeth. Recent reports indicate that the method of post and core technique may not be as significant as the placement of a full coverage restoration with margins on tooth structure. The influence of different restorative techniques of endodontically treated teeth on the stress transfer to the supporting tooth structure was examined. When a post and core was covered by a complete crown with 2 mm margins on tooth structure and subjected to loading, there was no difference between the two post designs analyzed. It is possible that the complete crown may be the great equalizer, as it tends to change the distribution of forces

continued on page 5

### A Prefabricated Thompson Dowel Rest Attachment System for Distal Extension Removable Partial Dentures

Ira D. Zinner, D.D.S., M.S.D.

In the treatment planning for restoration of periodontally involved dentitions, a prefabricated Thompson dowel rest semiprecision attachment system for distal extension removable partial dentures deserves consideration. This prefabricated system provides for rotation and therefore stress breaking with controlled movement. Other stress breaking systems provide for rotation without specific control. In addition, the Thompson dowel rest system is the only stress breaker that is intracoronal not extracoronal. The N-L attachment system offers facilitation of laboratory procedures, eliminates the need for utilization of gold for dowels, reduces the size of the rest seats, and aids in the preservation of the integrity of the hard and soft supporting tissues.

continued on page 5

## Bone Resorption around Fixtures in Edentulous Patients Treated with Mandibular Fixed Tissue-Integrated Prostheses

Lars W. Lindquist, D.D.S.  
Birger Rockler, D.D.S.  
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The gradual reduction of edentulous residual alveolar bone supporting complete dentures is a major oral disease entity. Several longitudinal studies have indicated that morphologic changes of denture-bearing regions are inevitable even if they show great individual variation. Changes of the prosthesis support, especially in the mandible, may compromise denture wearing and masticatory functions. The successful replacement of lost natural teeth by tissue integrated dental implants is therefore an exciting improvement in clinical dentistry. Of particular interest is the reaction of the bone after implant therapy. This article analyzes bone resorption around fixtures in association with treatment of the edentulous mandible with a fixed prosthesis on tissue integrated implants. Forty-six patients treated with the osseointegration implant method according to Branemark were followed for an observation period of up to 6 years.

*Life-long function seems likely for most tissue integrated implants.*

The most remarkable finding is the extremely small amount of bone resorption that occurred during the first 6 years after treatment with fixed tissue integrated prostheses in previously edentulous mandibles. The long-term prognosis for osseointegrated fixtures appears to be extremely good. With less than 0.1 mm bone loss per year after the postsurgical period, life-long function seems likely for most tissue integrated implants.

Oral hygiene was found to be the most important factor associated with marginal bone loss. The reactions in the marginal soft tissues and the microbiota in the perifixtural pockets seem to differ from those around natural teeth. The careful instructions in oral hygiene recommended for TIP patients to avoid compromising gingival health seem also to be necessary to minimize the bone loss around the fixtures.

Parafunctional activity such as bruxism, both as reported tooth clenching and recording of occlusal wear on the prosthesis, led to increased bone loss. The correlation between the length of the cantilever extensions and bit force on the one hand and some bone loss values on the other also indicated possible influences of overloading. The multivariate analysis verified that a combination of poor oral hygiene and extensive loading were the factors that best could explain the variation in bone loss.

From a clinical point of view, the most distal fixtures in patients with cantilever prostheses have usually been assumed to be exposed to the most risk. This does not appear to be so with respect to bone loss, according to the present results.

\* *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* V59; No. 1, January 1988.

## Single-Tooth Rehabilitation Using Osseointegration. A Modified Surgical and Prosthodontic Approach

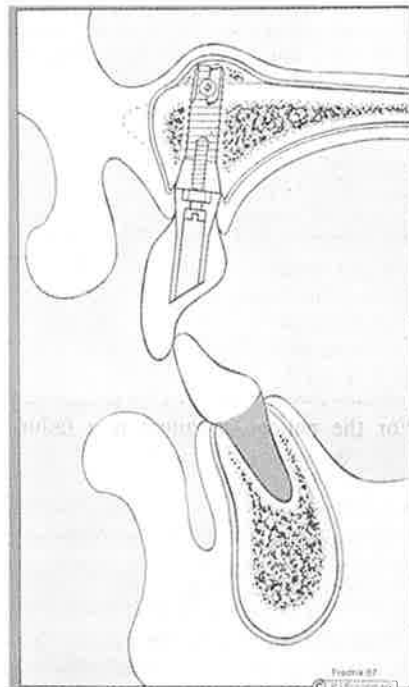
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Per-Ingvar Branemark, M.D., Ph.D.

Loss of teeth may cause severe disturbances of a patient's masticatory function, comfort, and psychological nature. For esthetic and functional reasons, most people want to replace even a single lost tooth. Replacement of a single missing tooth with an osseointegrated fixture as an abutment for an individual crown has previously only been used in a limited number of cases. The reasons for this have mainly been technical and esthetic problems. In order to improve the esthetic possibilities, shorten the treatment period, and simplify the procedure for replacing a single lost tooth using osseointegration, a modified surgical and prosthetic procedure is implemented.

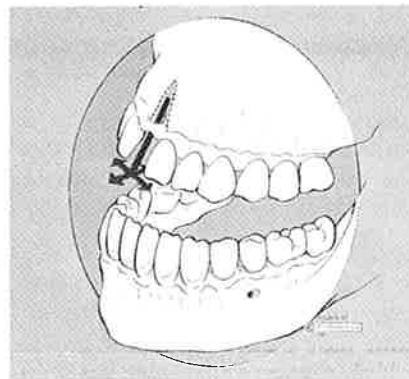
This paper describes a modified procedure for the immediate replacement of a single tooth. In principle, two modifications of the fixture are introduced: first, the hexagonal part is extended (0.7 to 1.2 mm), simplifying the abutment connection; second, the conical part varies in diameter (3.0 to 5.0 mm). The conical shape of the superior part of the fixture will optimize the contact area between the bone tissue and the fixture. Despite this conical shape gaps may occur between the bone tissue and the titanium surface. In such situations, however, spongy bone is grafted from adjacent areas and properly packed into this space, ensuring intimate contact between the bone and the titanium surface and thus eventually enhancing the possibilities for osseointegration. Furthermore, functional loads applied to such a conically shaped fixture will be favorably distributed to the supporting alveolar bone.

The part of the abutment fitting the fixture is inversely conical in relation to the fixture and varies in length between 5 and 9 mm, which makes it possible to place the conical part of the abutment subgingivally. Supragingivally the hexagonal part of the abutment is exposed and serves as a post for the artificial crown to be installed. The subgingival part is conically shaped in order to facilitate a favorable adaptation of the gingival tissues to the abutment as well as to obtain a perfect fitting of the

subgingival part of the crown (figure 1). The use of a cemented crown facilitates adjustments and corrections such as those created by color changes or wear, without disturbing the dynamic equilibrium of the mucoperiosteal interface.



*Schematic drawing illustrating single-tooth components in situ.*



*Photograph illustrating position analysis of the fixture to be installed.*

Because the subgingivally located conical part of the abutment varies between 5 and 9 mm in length, the probing ("pocket") depth also may vary between 5 and 9 mm. Clinical studies analyzing the composition of the plaque present in pockets surrounding titanium abutments have clearly demonstrated a flora representing a healthy periodontal situation even when the pocket depth has been somewhat deepened. Providing that the patient exhibits a high standard of oral hygiene, the risk for loss of supporting alveolar bone around such titanium abutments is low even when the pocket depth is increased. When a single missing tooth is replaced using standard fixtures and

continued on page 3

abutments, a very common problem is loosening of the center screw, which leads to a loose abutment and rotation of the crown. Such complications can be avoided by using the modified titanium components presented in this report. Further, the artificial crown is cemented on the abutment, which increases the possibility of good esthetics and further decreases the risk that the crown will become loose.

\* *Quintessence International* V19; 12/1988; 871-876.

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### **Comparative Analysis of 100 Consecutively Placed Core-Vent Implants to 100 Consecutively Placed Biotess (Branemark) Implants**

P. K. Moy

To date, many articles have been published stating the success and/or failure rates of a particular endosseous implant system, based on an individual clinician's experience. The purpose of this analysis was to compare the success rate of the two systems, based on a single practitioner's experience. The method included the same surgical technique, experience and post operative care for all patients, assuring minimal variations and discrepancies. Failures were defined and identified according to jaw position, timing of failure and treatment outcome. Complications associated with the two systems were also described.

Included in the study and analyzed in the report data were 101 Branemark fixtures in 31 patients and 100 Core-Vent Implants in 32 patients.

The definition for absolute failures is the fixtures or implants that were removed. The author categorized potential or progressing failures which would cover looseness or mobility of more than +3 mm, soft tissue dehiscence, inflammation around the implant, or osseous pocketing of more than 5 mm radiographic lucency or chronic infection. The results: the Core-Vents were followed for a maximum of 3 years, minimum of 1 year. The Branemark fixtures were followed for a maximum of 2 years, 3 months, a minimum of 1 year.

The Branemark results in the maxilla had 92% success and included 2 failures out of 26; in the mandible, 99% success with one failure out of 75. The combined success rate was 97%. Considering the potential or progressing complications, in the maxilla, there were none and all implants were solid. In the mandible there were 2 complications: one fixture was fractured; however, the prosthodontist did restore it, and the other had threads exposed. Evaluating this data, one would project a success rate of 92% in the maxilla and 96% in the mandible with a combined total of 95%.

Examining the Core-Vent implants, the facts were as follows: in the maxilla,

5 out of 31 failed (84% success); in the mandible, 9 out of 69 failed (87% success) with a combined success of 86%. In the category of potential or progressing complications, the maxilla had 8. Of those, 6 had +3 mobility or greater with radiolucencies around the Core-Vent implants. Two had pocket depths of greater than 5 mm.

In the mandible, 13 out of 69 Core-Vent implants presented problems or complications. Three had +3 mobility and radiolucency around the entire implant, six had pocket depths of more than 5 mm, and four had chronic infections around the loaded implant. Considering this data, a 79% success rate was tabulated with regard to potential or progressive complications.

With all Core-Vent implant data analyzed in this study the projected failure rate in the maxilla was 58%, and 68% in the mandible, with a combined success rate of 65%.

Dr. Moy concluded that the Branemark system provided a more consistent clinical result with fewer complications. The present Core-Vent data must be viewed cautiously in light of the involvement with progressive complications which may result in future implant failures. It was noted that all Core-Vents were inserted prior to the company's introduction of the new twist or spade drills as well as their prepackaged system.

\* Presented at the Second International Congress on Preprosthetic Surgery, May 1987, Palm Springs, CA

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### **Osseointegrated Implants (Tubingen, IMZ, Branemark) — Management Concept and Experiences**

G. Watzek, M. Matejka, W. Lill, G. Mailath, P. Matzka and H. Plenk

An implantological concept based on osseointegrated implants (Tubingen implant, intramobile cylindrical implant (IMZ), Branemark implant) in service for 5 years and the 10 factors predictive of implant success are reviewed. The original concept, which almost always included preprosthetic surgery, was continually reevaluated clinically (periodontal examinations, Periotest measurements, denture follow-ups, X-ray studies, etc.). Associated basic research and animal experiments suggested several improvements. Under optimal conditions, near-physiologic implant integration appears to be realistic prospect. But a great many conditions and factors must be met to produce and maintain implant integration. Still, implants have already acquired a place in the management of patients with edentulous mandibles. They meet the anatomical requirements and can be offered to suitable candidates as a true alternative to conventional full dentures.

\* *Z Stomatol* (1988) 85/4: 207-233.

### **Cost Effectiveness: A Bargaining Chip? (an Editorial)**

William R. Laney, D.M.D., M.S.,  
Editorial Chairman of the *International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants*

Because of the many elective facets of dental restorative care, payors more and more look to the cost effectiveness of procedures and material systems in making support decisions. High quality care is not necessarily the most expensive, furthermore, it can often be less expensive. While a contract provider may offer lower prices up front, there is no guarantee that lower costs will prevail long term.

Preventive dentistry is becoming more attractive because of its cost effectiveness. If predictable long-term solutions to common problems are available, even though more costly initially, their use may be financially more cost effective in the long run.

Perhaps more important than the pecuniary cost benefit is the biologic cost effectiveness of predictable implant therapy. As integrated implants remain in appropriate function, they in fact encourage bone retention and actually contribute to bone conservation.

Mismanagement of the prosthodontic phase of treatment can adversely affect the most reliable of implant modalities. Misuse or misapplication puts the patient at risk.

When well-designed and fabricated prostheses are placed on predictable implant support in the mouths of caring patients, the result can be long lasting, provide comfort, and protect "that which remains" of the biologic foundation.

What better value for the cost can one ask?

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## Can We Talk?

Daniel M. Laskin

The oral and maxillofacial surgeon is at a considerable disadvantage when it comes to having the time necessary to build a firm relationship with his patients. Thus, it becomes necessary to develop an approach to gaining the patient's confidence and cooperation that can be accomplished quickly and effectively.

The physical surroundings of the office and the courtesy and attentiveness of the staff are very important in setting the stage, as are the doctor's dress and demeanor, but most important is the manner in which he speaks to patients. Proper conversation is the key to making the first impression a good one. It is essential in communicating with the patient to be friendly, to be informative and to show concern. Telling a patient exactly what to expect can go a long way toward improving cooperation and reducing complaints.

Our conversations with patients should also extend beyond the initial encounter and into the operative period. Calm reassurance can serve as vocal sedation for patients who are not premedicated and reduce the need for additional medication in those who are pharmacologically

sedated. An honest explanation of what is occurring also gains the patient's confidence and leads to better cooperation.

Just as we have to be careful about what we say to the patient during the operation, we must be careful about what is said by others who are present. We also have to be cautious about our choice of words when requesting instruments. "Hand me a drill" or "get me a mallet and a chisel" can be replaced by less threatening words like "handpiece" or "osteotome."

Conversations in the operatory often involve the ancillary personnel as well as the patient and these too must be carefully monitored. Patients sometimes inaccurately assume that what was said referred to them.

Developing a rapport with our patients through proper conversation has many obvious advantages, not the least of which is a reduction in potential litigation. Patients are less likely to challenge the competence of surgeons they like, trust, and respect. Thus, appropriate communication as part of good patient management is also part of good risk management. It has often been said that talk is cheap. Perhaps it is better to remember that a lack of conversation can also be expensive.

\* Editorial, *Journal of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery* 46:175, 1988.

## The Elderly Lead in Seeking Treatment

H. Barry Waldman

Data are now available from the 1986 National Health Interview Survey which document increases in the uses of dental services by the general population in the second half of the 1980's—with dramatic increases by older population cohorts. The significant increase in the use of dental services by the elderly is part of a continuing trend since the 1960's. These changing dental use patterns by the older population may reflect any number of socio-demographic and economic developments.

Many of the older populations of our nation are survivors, resilient and very much alive. They expect and are demanding services to which they feel they are entitled. They expect extended life spans with needed health and social services throughout these periods. The changing needs and use of dental treatment by this population represents a major growing patient service pool and should be monitored.

The elderly, who were willing to "survive" on their Social Security checks with minimal third party programs for health and social services, are being replaced by a changed new generation of "nearly elderly" and "young elderly." This consumer will be healthier, better educated, more politically aware, more demanding of social services, and have greater economic security, and the majority will have some teeth.

The long term decrease in the numbers of edentulous persons, increased anticipation of longevity, an evolving "new" older population which expects and demands a variety of health and social services, increasing third party coverage programs, and a willingness to increase out of pocket expenditures for prosthetic dentistry services, all portend favorably for the future of dental practice. But most probably, improvements in dental practice activity will come to those dentists who are able to bring together an understanding of the complexities of the physiological changes which are a component of the aging process and an appreciation of the social, psychological and behavioral realities associated with older patients.

\* *Journal of the American College of Dentists*.

## Electronics in the Body Shop

Marshall Ledger

Should people who need a biomedical device subject themselves to experimental science? Take, for instance, the cochlear implant, which simulates acoustic signals and restores sounds and even an understanding of speech to some otherwise deaf people. Frank Bowe, a 1969 graduate of Western Maryland College who chaired the United States Commission on Education of the Deaf, does not now recommend this type of implantation.

Bowe is deaf. He points out that the cochlea lies dangerously near facial nerves that could be severed by miscalculated surgery—a penalty too stiff for the current status of cochlear-implant technology.

But assume that a cochlear implant involved no risk. Patients would still face the recurring health-care question of access and cost. Currently a cochlear device, including surgery, costs about \$20,000, and physicians cannot tell how much a patient will benefit from it before the implant.

Will insurance pay for something so uncertain? Some devices enhance the quality of life without obviously changing the productivity of the recipients. Will insurance companies be eager to cover costs in such cases, even though the technology could cut the cost of full-time care, not to mention both the financial and emotional drains on the families?

In the United States, health-care costs already consume some 11% of the gross national product. New devices bring new dilemmas, if only over the cost. For example, an implantable defibrillator can sense whether blood is being pumped to the heart and within seconds send an electric shock to restart the heartbeat. Long-term care for a brain-damaged patient is extremely expensive. But the implantable defibrillator costs about \$15,000; tests, surgery, and recovery might run another \$20,000.

Alfred Potvin devoted 17 years to university teaching before working on biomedical products. When his students questioned cost, distribution, and ethics, he let them respond to each other's points. "Invariably," he said, "I'd find that you get into a controversy that no one has an answer to"—which is about where we are in the real world.

\* *Villanova Magazine*, August 1988.

## FDA's New Position

continued from page 1

the product has been allowed onto the market. I question if this time period is long enough to sort out all the deleterious systems.

An implant restoration must be considered to be a long-term solution for the patient. Following the three years of prospective studies the implant system should be evaluated for an additional five more

years. It is conceivable that mechanical stability alone, without any osseointegration at all, could last for more than five years in some cases. But hardly more than ten.

The long term predictability of implant treatment depends upon implant material, design, surface structure, condition of the bone, surgical technique, prosthetic design and patient hygiene.

continued on page 5