



Satisfying patients' demands without any need for compromise

It is increasingly common for dentists to encounter well informed patients who already have clearly defined expectations. The ability to deal with them skilfully is highly sought after, as is the products that satisfies patients demands without requiring the clinician to make any compromises.

Interview with Dietmar Weng, Priv.-Doz. Dr. med. dent.

Implantologist

Have the expectations of your patients changed in recent times?

Very much so, these days patients turn up to my practice with a lot more information at their disposal. They've usually done extensive research online beforehand. You can think what you want about that, but you have to accept that that's how it is. No one needs the basics of dental implantology explained to them nowadays. That knowledge though leads to greater expectations on the part of patients, who ask very specific questions about materials, durability and the cost of restoration. It is now a duty put upon us to provide a full and detailed explanation.

What are now the decisive criteria for implant material as far as patients are concerned?

Patients are now actually much more likely to ask specifically for ceramic implants because they've heard or read about them somewhere. In general, we have noticed many more people requesting 'biological' restorations. When patients say they don't want any metal in their mouths, I first try to explain the chemical aspect. You may not have any titanium in your mouth but the contact surface is made of titanium oxide or zirconium oxide. Both versions essentially act biologically and offer good compatibility.

What do you need from an implant system?

These days, we should be able to rely on very predictable outcomes. An implant is expected to integrate without any complications. It seems to me that the connection between the implant and the abutment is much more important. I have spent many years focusing intently on the conical connection and have got to the point where my choice of implant system depends largely on how stable and firm the implant-abutment connection is. Only if it performs in the way I want, can I insert the implant deeper and deliver much more aesthetically pleasing outcomes as a result. If you add tissue-friendly surfaces to that as well, which I want as a means of ensuring lasting stability for the hard and soft tissues, I'm very happy.

In your opinion, what are the most interesting and promising developments at the moment?

Until recently, there were only two answers to the question of which material to choose: titanium or ceramics. Now, with hybrid implant, an entirely new and very interesting approach has emerged. With a titanium core and a ceramic-coated surface, I can get the best of both worlds. After all, despite its compatibility as a general rule, we do keep hearing discussions about isolated cases of incompatibility with titanium implants, or the possibility of corrosive effects. That is a matter that still has yet to be resolved adequately. When patients do have that particular vulnerability, or if patients expressly request ceramic restorations, the hybrid implant available now give me an alternative that I can use without having to abandon the prosthodontics concepts that I already know work. However, the implant-abutment connection remains the deciding factor for me in that case as well. At my practice, I have therefore done a lot of work with the myplant Bio implant because it has a standard firm and self-locking conical connection as well as an abrasion-resistant and shear-resistant Cerid ceramic layer on the implant itself, plus a ceramic niobium layer on the abutment section and at the point in contact with the soft tissue. That means that the hard and soft tissues have the best possible support.

How has your experience with myplant bio been? What outcomes have you delivered?

After two years or so, my experience has been nothing but positive. In addition to the hardware itself, I really appreciate companies like myplant that have clear structures and lines of communication, enabling me to contact them easily. Innovative ideas are expressly welcomed, and I always receive prompt responses to my queries. What you might call 'soft' factors like that are extremely important in the demanding world of everyday clinical practice and play a big part in making the experience a positive one.

Thank you for your time.

