Breastfeeding moms need milk  
Nursing mothers need healthy  
amounts of calcium or run the risk  
of bone loss around their teeth  
and gums.

A-dec brings color to dental office  
The dental equipment manufacturer  
is becoming broader, with offerings  
designed to serve dentists as their  
needs become more sophisticated.

Mark your calendar  
Check out this list of important  
upcoming events and meetings  
for the dental implant community  
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Use these helpful management tips  
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Academy of Osseointegration  
bucks tradition at annual  
meeting in San Antonio

By Sierra Rendon, Managing Editor, Implant Tribune

The Academy of Osseointegration’s 22nd annual meeting, held March 8-10, was an historic one.

In his Opening Remarks address, AO President Edward B. Sevetz Jr., DMD, explained the many reasons this meeting stood apart from the rest.

First, Sevetz said, there was the location: San Antonio, Texas. It was the first time AO had ever met at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, just minutes from the historic site of the Alamo and the famous Riverwalk.

Then, there was the exhibit hall, which boasted of the highest number of corporate partners and exhibitors that any AO meeting had ever had.

There was also the State of the Science of Implant Dentistry Consensus Conference, which explained the results of a several-year-long project headed by Drs. Vince Iacono and David Cochran. During that conference, attendees had the opportunity to vote for treatment plans on wireless keypads for innovative audience participation.

The SSID was established to answer specific questions about the field and posted for consideration by a select group of 140 distinguished clinicians, scientists and academicians.

Those questions were:
• “What is the effect on outcomes of time-to-loading of a fixed or removable prosthesis placed on implant(s)?”

Smoking can cause dental implants to fail

By John Hoffman, News Editor, Dental Tribune

CHICAGO — Smoking can harm the integrity of dental implants and cause them to fail more so than in a non-smoker, according to a new study that appeared in the February issue of the Journal of Periodontology (JOP).

Researchers from University of Murcia in Spain investigated if smoking impacts the ability of a dental implant to succeed. They found that smoking is a risk factor with regard to tooth loss and dental implant failure.

“People who smoke are at a greater risk of infection following surgery, and may heal more slowly,” said Dr. Arturo Sanchez Perez, Department of Periodontology at the University of Murcia. “When an implant is placed in a smoker, it is more likely to fail. This means a patient’s smile may be negatively affected, and the potential for more bone loss in the areas surrounding the gums and teeth.”

Smoking negatively affects blood flow to the bone and tissues surrounding the gums and teeth, which impairs bone healing.

Implants fail because of a failure to integrate with the surrounding bone tissues. The study followed 66 patients over 5 years, who received 165 implants. They found that 15.8 percent of implants failed in smokers, versus 1.4 percent of implants in non-smokers.

Photo galleries
For photos from the Academy of Osseointegration’s annual meeting, including the President’s Reception and the Exhibit Hall, please see pages 15-14.

Attendees stream into the exhibit hall at the Academy of Osseointegration’s annual meeting at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center.
Virtual classroom: Personal, mobile and flexible learning

By Sascha A. Jovanovic, Editor-in-Chief, Implant Tribune

In today's increasingly complex and evolving dental world, dental professionals must be innovative, knowledgeable and globally up to date in both concepts and practice. Advanced dental education programs provide GPs and specialists with concepts, solutions and procedures to drive their practice and turn today's clinical solutions into satisfied patients and beautiful smiles. But travel inconveniences, costs, overbusy practitioners and the arrival of new and reliable IT technology have changed the world of dental education.

It is this transformation that prompted an update of classic CE programs using new media like DVD, CD-ROM and Internet video streaming. It has already in short time proved to be educational and fun especially for the so-called "digital natives"—those dentists who have grown up with the digital world and are at ease with modern communications technology.

Online learning is not the same as on-campus or in-room learning: it needs to be an active mode of interaction between students and educators. First, the viewer has to accept that the virtual world has limited face-to-face interaction and that commitment and discipline are needed by doing it in your own time. But one of the advantages of the online teaching modules are its obvious convenience and cost-effectiveness and a potential, higher participation of the students in discussions. Another part of what enhances the online experience is the richness of the technology itself and its ability to be live, flexible, on-demand and interactive. Programs are presented via a range of media including email, audio, video and interaction— all of which can be added by the educators and the students.

"Clinical practice along with the online learning makes it incredibly interesting and fascinating (instead of traditional lectures in class)," said Dr. Kate Chiewcharnvalijkit from Bangkok, who used a combination of clinical practice along with the online learning to enhance the learning experience. "I got more enthusiastic once I know that other dentists from countries around the world are in the same audience with me. It's fun and a good experience. In the same classes, I was a young dentist and showed the older dentists the IT systems. In return, they shared their valuable clinical experiences. This is what I call the highway of knowledge."

e-Learning through PC or DVD player mixed with face-to-face sessions during conferences or hands-on workshops is in step with modern professional development and redefines the future of CE in dentistry. Modules where the dentists study the basic or advanced theories of the topic in advance, increases the learning outcome and is more engaging for all involved. Basically, dental education is trying to become more efficient and make better use of educators and clinicians time and enhance the learning experience.

Enjoy this month the exciting new world of Blended Learning!

About the author

Sascha A. Jovanovic

Sascha A. Jovanovic was formally trained in periodontics at UCLA School of Dentistry, in implant dentistry at Loma Linda University and in prosthodontics at University of Aachen, Germany, and holds a master's degree in oral biology from UCLA.

He restricts his clinical work to dental implant therapy and bone & soft tissue re-construction, is lecturer at UCLA Continuing Dental Education, is professor (Hon.) at Univ. of British Columbia, Divi- sion of Periodontics and Implants, Vars- covier, is assoc. prof. (Hon.) at the Uni- versity of Hong Kong, Department of Oral Surgery, and is director of the Web-based Global Institute for Dental Education.

Academy of Osseointegration bucks tradition at annual meeting in San Antonio

The Academy of Osseointegration (AO) President Eduard B. Sevitz Jr., DMD, describes the unique features of the annual meeting in his Opening Remarks on March 8.

Achievement award, which was given to keynote speaker Professor Tomas Albrektsson. In his speech, Albrekt- sson described the early days in the field of osseointegration, in which he worked with Per-Ingvar Branemark.

"The aesthetics of our early os- seointegrated implants were not opti- mal, but improved with the help of properly trained prosthodontists. How- ever, our implants remained stable."

He also expressed his desire that new advances in the field be met with caution.

"All novelties with osseointegrate- ed implants have not been positive. ... I am increasingly disturbed by simplified messages and notions that everything will succeed. De- spite positive results with most major implant systems, it remains risky to challenge biology. I agree with Branemark who has stated that everything is not rapid and simple."

Albrektsson suggested how doc- tors placing implants should set out for success in the future.

"We must remember to put pa- tients first at all times to ensure a good, continued middle age of os- seointegration: 1. We must have a return of science to the field of oral implants; 2. New implants/radical implant innovations need clinical pre-testing; 3. If things go wrong, the dentist may have the major re- sponsibility; and 4. Clinical han- dling may be as common a reason for implant failure as is ever the hardware."

The Academy of Osseointegra- tion’s 2008 meeting will be held in Boston, MA.

Smoking can cause dental implants to fail

“Tobacco use has been shown to be a risk factor for periodontal diseases, which is the main cause of tooth loss in adults,” said Dr. Preston D. Miller, DDS, president of the American Acad- emy of Periodontology. “This re- search shows that if you want your dental implant to last, you should not smoke. Also, the treating dentist should make sure their patients are aware of this before placing an implant, and emphasize the importance of quitting smoking.”

To assess your periodontal health, visit www.perio.org and click on “Assess your gum dis- ease risk.” Visit the AAP website, www.perio.org, for a referral to a periodontist and free brochure titled Tobacco and Periodontal Diseases: Targeting Tobacco Use. Or call 800/TLOSS-EM (800-556-7756) toll-free.

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About the author

Sascha A. Jovanovic, DDS, MS

Giger went on to distinguish between tobacco use and smoking. "Tobacco use, which is a global problem, and smoking, which is a disease. Smoking and tobacco use are two different things but they have the same end result: oral and systemic diseases."

"Smoking can impair the quality of life of patients with a dental implant by increasing the risk of infection, and causing premature implant failure,” Dr. Albrektsson suggested. "Also, smoking affects quality of life, especially for those patients who are aware that they are at risk for implant failure."

Tobacco smoking is one of the most significant risk factors for periodontal diseases, termed "smoker's mouth,” and is the leading cause of tooth loss in adults, a study by an international group of investigators showed in its latest report. ‘‘Periodontal disease and smoking: an international study’’ was published in the Journal of Periodontology.

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