Osteogenics’ symposium focuses on grafting

Inaugural Global Bone Grafting Symposium focuses on group learning, hands-on activities

The latest research and techniques in bone grafting, along with interactive learning activities, took center stage earlier this month at Osteogenics’ Inaugural Global Bone Grafting Symposium.

160 clinicians from three continents and six countries attended the symposium held April 3-4 at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Ariz.

During the two-day symposium, an expert panel of speakers shared techniques and evidence-based strategies to achieve predictable results in a variety of bone grafting procedures. The clinicians also participated in a hands-on ridge augmentation workshop, as well as daily interactive treatment planning sessions featuring real-time treatment planning discussions among the panelists.

Company president Shane Shutlesworth said the goal for the symposium was to create an open, interactive environment conducive to group learning.

This was achieved by allowing speakers ample time to present in-depth discussions featuring complications and appropriate management, creating an interactive learning environment between the expert panel and the audience, and keeping unbiased education a focus of the symposium.

This year’s symposium faculty included Dr. Henry Greenwell, Dr. Eiji Funakoshi, Dr. Daniel Cullum, Dr. Jeffrey Lemler, and Dr. Barry Bartee. Dr. Thomas Wilson served as the lead panelist.

Greenwell presented clinical data from numerous studies comparing various socket grafting techniques and materials, as well as ridge augmentation trials conducted at the University of Louisville’s Department of Periodontics. Lemler’s presentation focused on horizontal and vertical ridge augmentation of the atrophic edentulous ridge using allograft bone matrix and guided tissue regeneration membranes. Bartee’s presentation examined six myths associated with socket grafting and using current scientific evidence to disprove these commonly held beliefs.

Cullum discussed minimally invasive sinus lift techniques and lectured about a ridge expansion technique using custom-designed instrumentation. Funakoshi reviewed his innovative technique of vertical and horizontal ridge augmentation utilizing an open barrier membrane technique with titanium-reinforced high-density PTFE membranes, allograft bone matrix and enamel matrix proteins.

Bartee and Cullum conducted a ridge augmentation workshop featuring the use of Cytoplast® high-density PTFE membranes and Regenform® Allograft Paste. A predictable membrane fixation using a unique self-drilling screw system, rather than tacks, was also demonstrated. Attendees were able to perform these procedures on models, allowing for a hands-on experience.

In the daily treatment planning sessions, Wilson and Cullum served as moderators and led lively discussions among the panelists.

Using actual clinical cases, panel members were asked to diagnose, treatment plan and manage potential complications, all in a real-time environment. The pros and cons of the various augmentation techniques and approaches were openly discussed among the panelists until a consensus was reached on the appropriate clinical approach to the problem at hand.

To further encourage interactive learning, clinicians were invited to submit questions and have the panel discuss hot topics in bone grafting.

The program’s unique structure also allowed time for individual interaction and peer-to-peer learning. In addition to the group learning activities, clinicians had the opportunity to interact with their peers during meals and during a cocktail reception held on Friday evening.

Plans are already being made for next year’s symposium.

"The response to our first global bone grafting symposium was excellent, especially in these challenging economic times," Shutlesworth said. "The feedback from attending clinicians was overwhelmingly positive. The speakers did an outstanding job presenting the latest research and surgical techniques on a variety of bone grafting procedures, and I think the audience really enjoyed the interactive format. This is definitely something that we will do each year, and we will continue to bring exceptional speakers on a variety of interesting and relevant bone grafting topics."

(Source: Osteogenics)

Dr. Daniel Cullum leads a hands-on ridge expansion demonstration following his lecture.