

The evidence on ceramic implants is positive: Advancing into the future

As we approach the end of 2022 and look forward to a new year with its fresh challenges and goals, it is appropriate to review the state of ceramic implants and their future. Professionally, the emergence of zirconia implant technologies presents a dynamic aspect of focus for the contemporary surgical and/or prosthetics dental implant practice. With their growing share of the dental implant market worldwide, their multiple benefits when compared with titanium cannot be overlooked. For savvy clinicians who embrace this newer technology, the future is incredibly bright!

In the past, when discussing and evaluating zirconia as an alternative to titanium in the implant field, conventional wisdom tended to frown upon zirconia. However, the old misconceptions regarding design, premature implant fixture fractures and failures, cumbersome prostheses and needing special clinical protocols to utilise zirconia implants are now being dispelled.

As more and more clinicians are adopting this exciting technology and more research is appearing in various peer-reviewed journals, dentists with a focus on implant dentistry are noticing. The validation of ceramic implants in the field is continuing to grow through the dissemination of findings on them by key opinion leaders presenting at major dental implant conferences. This is all helping to secure a firm position in the overall field.

There have been significant recent advancements in zirconia, including new implant designs, bone-level options, simplified prostheses, and digital workflow options with appropriate components. Regarding two-piece designs, there are definitive centre screw options that can be torqued, non-cementable abutments and cementable centre screws to provide stable fixation for permanent function. These all allow for ease of use clinically.

As patients become more aware of metal-free options for natural tooth replacement, they will continue to ask their dentist about them. This is happening routinely in my multi-specialty practice. In closing, zirconia implants have a definitive place in modern implant dentistry. The future for this exciting technology is here!

Yours,
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