Program Speaker - Dr. Christoph Hämmerle

Title
Ridge preservation: emerging concepts and clinical consequences

Abstract

A very large number of teeth are extracted in dental practices every day. The question for every dentist is: how to best deal with an extraction socket. A large body of research shows that if left to spontaneous healing, the ridge will lose around 50% of its horizontal volume within the first 6 to 12 months after tooth extraction. When preserving the ridge both hard and soft tissue aspects have to be considered. By applying newly developed methods to quantitatively assess volume changes of the ridge it has become possible to evaluate advantages and disadvantages of different techniques for ridge preservation. Various techniques dealing with extraction sockets have recently been published. Some of these show controversial data. It appears that filling the socket with an appropriate grafting material and sealing the entrance to the socket with autogenous tissue or suitable biomaterials can prevent some or most of the ridge collapse occurring during the first 3 to 12 months following tooth extraction. The next step regarding ridge preservation is to identify the clinical situations, in which these techniques render a clinical benefit for the patient and the therapist.

Learning Objectives

1. Listeners will understand the pattern and degree of resorption of the alveolar ridge following tooth extraction
2. Listeners will understand methods allowing to successfully counteract the naturally occurring ridge resorption following tooth extraction
3. Listeners will understand the clinical benefits that ridge preservation may have for subsequent treatment steps

Biography

DR. CHRISTOPH HÄMMERLE
Department Chairman, Clinic of Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics, Dental Materials Science and the Division of Implant Dentistry, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Christoph Hämmerle is certified in prosthodontics and periodontics. His clinical and scientific interest lie on biological and technological aspects of the comprehensive treatment of complex, partially edentulous patients applying all available options of reconstructive dentistry including dental implants.

Prof. Hämmerle is or has been a board member of various scientific organizations notably: European Association for Osseointegration (EAO), Osteology Foundation (OF), Swiss Society for Reconstructive
Dentistry (SSRD), Continental European Division of the IADR (CED), International Team for Implantology Switzerland (ITI), Dental Campus Association (DCA).

He has received an honorary doctor from the University of Athens, Greece, honorary membership of the EAO, the Jerome M. and Dorothy Schweitzer Research Award of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics.

Prof. Hämmerle has published more than 250 scientific articles and has an H-factor of 71. He has lectured widely internationally.