

Dr. Hamilton H. Le

Title

Rediscovering Prevention in the Titanium Era of Dentistry: A CAMBRA Approach for the Caries Resistant Restoration

Abstract:

The philosophy of replacing missing teeth has changed significantly since the introduction of dental implants. Fixed partial dentures will become less frequent and more titanium supported restorations will emerge as the optimal treatment choice. The challenge of preserving and maintaining the implants and implant restorations will fall on the shoulders of a new generation of dentists. We know titanium is unsusceptible to dental decay but that implants are at risk of peri-implantitis. Thus, prevention and management of peri-implantitis is the legacy which we leave for the dentist of tomorrow. Periodontal infections are linked to fewer than 5% of oral bacterial microbes and a shift in the balance of that ecosystem could lead to an inflammatory process and eventual injury which otherwise would not occur without these bacteria.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the importance of a long term maintenance program for the implant prosthetic patient
2. Understanding the possible relationship of dental caries and titanium implants
3. Identifying the challenges that create the high risk patient and implementing a protocol for management

Biography

Hamilton H. Le graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Biochemistry, then completed his DMD as certificate in advanced prosthodontics from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston. He currently maintains an associateship in private practice in Torrance, California and is also a visiting lecturer at the post-graduate prosthodontics department for the West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital.