Azento brings the clinician financial and time-saving benefits

By DTI

The recent Dentsply Sirona World 2018 conference in Orlando saw the launch of Azento, a single tooth replacement. Dental Tribune International spoke with Jo Massoels, Director of Digital Implant Solutions at Dentsply Sirona, and Dr Daniel Butterman, a general and cosmetic dentist practising in Colorado in the US, about how Azento can benefit clinicians and what the future holds for implant dentistry.

Mr Massoels, Dr Butterman, what distinguishes the Azento system from competitors, and what are its advantages?

Butterman: For me, it’s the simplicity at all stages, from ordering to inventory, that sets the Azento system apart. Being able to design a final restoration straight from the treatment plan is so different from anything that we’ve ever seen, and this streamlined workflow has many time-saving benefits in terms of patient chair time, number of visits and so on. In many dental offices, the team will take either a film or digital X-ray of a patient’s mouth. Then, they’ll show the patient this tiny X-ray and point out certain areas of concern, perhaps begin to draw on it or use templates to show how the implant will be placed. The patients will say that they understand, but mostly because they are being polite—there’s really no comprehension. But when I show a patient their custom digital treatment plan, created with Azento, it’s far easier to highlight the issues that the implant placement will aim to correct. It allows the patient to...
co-diagnose with me, to see what the course of treatment can and should be.

Massoels: The streamlined workflow offered by Azento brings with it tangible financial and time-saving benefits by reducing administrative responsibilities, number of visits and patient chair time. It is designed to help dentists select the best-fitting implant, determine optimal implant positioning, healing environment and restoration for each case.

This spring, Dentsply Sirona celebrated the grand opening of its new, state-of-the-art training facility, the Dentsply Sirona Academy, in Charlotte in North Carolina. Will there be any training available at this centre for dental professionals interested in using Azento in their workplace?

Massoels: Absolutely. There will be hands-on training courses as part of Azento’s rollout in the US and we have been working very hard on developing a digital training option as well. We’ve found that many clinicians don’t necessarily want to have to go to a physical training course, but would rather be able to view it on their mobile phones or computers. As a result, we have a lot of training material for Azento that is now online and available for users of this solution.

Are there any cases that can’t be treated with Azento? What are its limitations?

Massoels: Currently, Azento is available for single tooth replacements in situations where there are two neighbouring teeth already. There are also certain clinical situations that are outside of Azento’s scope, and experts looking at the scans will identify these during the planning stage. Having these extra sets of eyes looking at each case and helping to categorise them is a clear benefit for clinicians.

Butterman: It’s a great safety net to have for dentists—a second opinion that comes with the purchase of an Azento box.

Technology is shifting really quickly these days. How do you see it evolving in the next few years within implantology and 3-D printing?

Butterman: Well, I have a 3-D printer in my practice and I do use some workflows for 3-D printing, but I’ll be honest—there are a lot of places where inexperienced users of this technology can make mistakes. I think there will be a place for it in the near future for the clinician, but it’s still more reliable for new users to have implants fabricated.

Massoels: I think 3-D printing is a very exciting development. Another interesting field that is close to my heart is treatment planning. Though our current solutions for this are good, there are areas that we can improve with the assistance of artificial intelligence technology. We have data from hundreds of thousands of successful implant cases from all around the world that we will be able to use in the future to help generate treatment plans within seconds.

Thank you very much for the interview.