Implant maintenance care solution

By Dr Olivier Carcuac, Sweden

Proper monitoring and maintenance are essential to ensure the durability and health of a dental implant. The long-term success of implants is fundamentally dependent upon both the patient’s maintenance of effective home care and on the dental team’s administration of professional prophylaxis procedures in the dental office.

Implant maintenance care programme

Proper monitoring and maintenance are essential to ensure the durability and health of a dental implant. Following the completion of the surgical and prosthetic procedures in implant therapy, it is imperative to inform the patient about how to carry out self-performed infection control procedures.

The long-term success of implants is fundamentally dependent upon both the patient’s maintenance of effective home care and on the dental team’s administration of professional prophylaxis procedures in the dental office.

Professional infection control procedures are necessary to achieve long-term success of our implant treatments and include the removal of hard and soft debris deposits on implant and suprastructure components with scalers.

Great care and caution should be practiced when cleaning the dental implant and the instruments to be used should ideally be capable of removing efficiently the bacterial deposits without altering the implant surface, the implant components and the surrounding tissues.

Effects of hand instruments on the implant surface

SEM investigation of instrumented titanium implant surface shows significantly less scratching caused by titanium curettes compared to other commonly used metal curettes and sonic instruments.


The reason for this difference in stratification is that normally is performed around teeth, as “subgingival debridement” that poses without altering the implant surface, the implant components and the surrounding tissues.

In this context, it is imperative to highlight that deep instrumentation, such as “subgingival debridement” that normally is performed around teeth, is not recommended in non-surgical implant therapy.

The new Hu-Friedy Titanium Implant Scalers Kit includes:

- Efficient removal of the bacterial deposit
- Gentle on titanium implant surfaces
- Unlike plastic scalers, titanium scalers don’t leave contaminants on the treated implant surface

Benefits of the titanium implant scalers

The new Hu-Friedy Titanium Implant Scalers Kit proposes a range of titanium scalers with different shape and color.

- Improved visual acuity and enhanced contrast to the abutment
- Increased instrument value
- Unlike plastic scalers, titanium scalers can be used both supra- and sub-gingival.

All subjects who present any signs of peri-implant disease should be thoroughly informed about the disorder and instructed on how to carry out self-performed infection control.

Whether the disease is mucositis or peri-implantitis, the initial phase of therapy must always include professional infection control procedures. The main objective is to remove peri-implant biofilm and calculus with scalers, without altering the implant surface, with the goal of re-establishing a healthy peri-implant mucosa.

The treatment of peri-implantitis requires often but not always surgery. The purpose of surgical therapy is to provide access for debridement and decontamination of the implant surface.

During surgery treatment of peri-implantitis

Regardless of the treatment, following local anesthesia, full-thickness flaps are elevated on the buccal and lingual aspects of affected implants. Inflamed tissue is removed, and titanium-implant curettes are used to remove hard deposits on implants. The implant surfaces are then decontaminated with saline for 2 min. Ozone recontaminating is performed when indicated, and flaps are adjusted and closed with single interrupted sutures.

References:

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