Dental implantology: Evolution or the road to ruin?

Why and where?

Where this technological change has taken implantology and what the real reasons are that this was and is happening need to be examined. Increasingly, the shadow of peri-implantitis looms like a spectre over the provision of implants. Unlike caries or periodontal disease, there is very little consensus or research that can provide a predictive cure for what now is a new breed of disease. Peri-implantitis is relentless once established within fine threads of the implant, and the bone resorption and soft-tissue problems that follow can result in spectacular problems.

Patient selection issues

We need to consider the types of patients whom we are now accepting for implant provision. At King’s College Hospital, the criteria for state-sponsored implant provision largely involve patients with historically complex medical problems. Patients who smoke, those with a history of periodontitis and those with poor oral hygiene are well known to be at a very significantly higher risk of peri-implantitis.

Biological versus mechanical problems

If we are being frank, the pathogenic bacteria-induced diseases are not the only long-term problem that we are now seeing. The reported frequency of mechanical complications has risen over the years, but the reported problems are probably only the tip of the iceberg.

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