“Paradigms in implant treatment planning are beginning to shift”

An interview with Prof. Friedrich Wilhelm Neukam, Scientific Chairman for the annual congress of the European Association of Osseointegration

In a few weeks, thousands of dental professionals will be gathering in the capital of Greece for the annual congress of the (EAO). Dental Tribune Group Editor Daniel Zimmermann spoke with Scientific Chairman Prof. Friedrich Wilhelm Neukam from the University of Erlangen in Erlangen, Germany, about the event and what is on the cards for the annual congress of implantology.

**Last year’s congress was all about clinical controversies in dental implantology. What topics will be the focus this time?**

Besides treatment planning in implant dentistry, our main topic, the prevention and management of complications and risk factors will be discussed. Furthermore, speakers are expected to shed light on other important aspects such as augmentation, as well as prosthetic and surgical therapy. Things are in flux here as well we actually start a treatment, so that we are able to achieve a more precise and safer implantation for our patients.

**Do you think that dentists have much catching up to do with regard to treatment planning?**

There are standard planning procedures prior to treatments such as implantation, augmentation, as well as prosthetic and surgical therapy. However, paradigms in implant treatment planning are beginning to shift, especially in cases with high requirements for aesthetics and for procedures, like for immediate-load implants. In these areas, we are noticing a technical leap forward in digital imaging and computer-assisted implantation. In my opinion, these things have proven worthy to be discussed extensively.

**What are the most common mistakes in implant treatment planning nowadays?**

Generally, we have to take some degree of error into account when transferring the results from the analysis of X-rays, CBCT or CT images to the final treatment protocol. Another important matter is the complexity of treatment planning with regard to the treatment protocol selected. This has given us a number of new therapeutic approaches. For me, the main advantage is that by using these techniques our knowledge is now far greater before fund of attention to detail and effort into the preparations for the Congress, as well as in the scientific and auxiliary programmes and we are very confident that participants can look forward to a highly professionally organised event.

**What are your personal and professional expectations of the congress?**

For someone like me having been personally involved in the preparations, one hopes that the congress will be a success. It is my sincere belief that all involved in our field will be able to learn a lot from the scientific studies that are being conducted, as well as from colleagues around the world who will be presenting their latest scientific data.

Personally, I am also looking forward to the exhibition. The EAO Congress will present the largest showcase of implantology-related products and technologies in Europe, and I am eager to see which novelties the industry will pull out of the hat. Not forgetting the numerous talks and exchanges with friends and colleagues, whom, unfortunately, I usually have the pleasure to meet during our congress.

Last but not least, I am looking forward to seeing Athens, which has been the cultural, economic and scientific centre of Greece for over 7.000 years.

**Thank you very much for this interview.**

(Transcribed provided by Annelerie Fischer, Germany)