The Inman Aligner is a highly effective and unique evolution of the traditional spring retainer that moves upper and lower anterior teeth predictably, safely and quickly. This makes it a revolutionary appliance, often described as the "missing-link" between cosmetic dentistry and orthodontics. With a proven track record throughout the UK the Inman Aligner is now becoming highly recognized in the Middle East.

One appliance

What is unique with the Inman Aligner is that it can be used to align teeth either as a stand-alone treatment or before aesthetic orthodontic techniques. Treatments only one appliance will be used. The Inman uses super-elastic Nickel-Titanium open coil springs to move upper and lower anterior teeth with light but consistent forces, enabling correction of anterior crowding, rotations and some types of spacing.

Fast and predictable result

Most cases are completed within 6-16 weeks depending on the complexity of the case. The system is removable and very fast, and patients who were previously put off by brackets and months of treatment can now achieve alignment in 6 to 16 weeks, with a brace that can be worn for as little as 16 hours a day. As an Inman Aligner Certified dentist you will understand how to provide a realistic guide of what to expect for each case. For suitable cases, the Inman Aligner is almost always much faster than alternative orthodontic techniques. Treatment is backed up with a full and comprehensive free support forum with many trainers helping to treat plan cases safely and predictably.

The lecturer - Tif Qureshi

The first dentist in the world to use the Inman Aligner as a major tool for cosmetic dentistry is Dr Tif Qureshi. Dr Qureshi qualified from Kings College London in 1992 and he is the Past President of the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Dr Qureshi has a special interest in simple orthodontics using removable appliances and was the first dentist in the U.K. to pioneer the Inman Aligner. To this date Dr Qureshi has completed over 1000 cases using Aligners as a stand alone treatment and to align teeth before cosmetic dentistry and functional dentistry. At the coming APDC Exhibition in Dubai the 17-19th of June Dr Qureshi will be having a lecture on the subject "Simple and predictable result"

"The Dental market is truly flourishing in Lebanon and in the Middle East"

By Rodny Abdallah

Rodny Abdallah: Please share with our readers a short biography including your education and laboratory experience.

Alain Sakr: My Name is Alain Sakr, I am a Certified Dental Technician, graduated from The Universitie Antonine at Baabda in 1991. I started my experience as an intern at Claude Thoume dental lab during the summer of the same year. Then I started to run my own dental lab until the present date.

How important is the choice of working for your colleagues and being the President of the Lebanese Dental Laboratories Association?

Recently, I have been elected by my colleagues to run the dental laboratory order for the coming three years, my main role and target will be to develop the order's vision towards a better future.

Compared to when you first started in the dental lab field, how has dentistry in dental lab developed through the years?

The field of Dentistry has passed a long way since I first started my career. This profession has made a huge upgrade from being a totally manual labour or hand work to an almost fully computerized and mechanical dentistry due to the involvement of scanners, milling devices and 3D printers.

What do you think about the dental lab market in Lebanon and the Middle East?

The Dental market is truly flourishing in Lebanon and in the Middle East. It is helping to push the development of our industry by sharing all news and updates to a large and wide range of people and highlighting on new technologies and materials before we could see them in the dental events.

OPDL dental events have been well established over the years. What can you tell us about LDLS 2014?

How important is the dental media in the lab field or the association? These days, the dental media is playing an important role in the development of our industry by sharing all news and updates to a large and wide range of people and highlighting on new technologies and materials before we could see them in the dental events.
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One step further with CAD/CAM

By Dr Steven Soo, Singapore

CAD/CAM methods for conventional dental and implant-borne prostheses have gained popularity for a variety of reasons. Despite many advantages in terms of cost and convenience, the uptake of this relatively new technology is slow, hinting at a reluctance to try something new.

Many, if not most, clinicians still choose to have fixed implant-borne multi-unit prostheses fabricated by traditional methods of casting and veneering precious metal alloys. However, the associated high technical and material costs may be prohibitive to the group of patients who need this treatment modality the most. To this end, more cost-effective alloys, including base metal alloys, have been cast and veneered with a variety of tooth coloured materials with good success. CAD/CAM takes this one step further. In fact, materials such as zirconia, which has revolutionised dental prostheses, would not be in use were it not for CAD/CAM.

There has been much discussion around the problem of achieving passivity of fit, the lack of which, it has been postulated, can contribute to mechanical and biological complications. The multiple steps and materials used in impression taking, casting a working model, producing a wax pattern, casting in metal alloy then veneering in tooth-coloured material all lead to a certain degree of misfit. CAD/CAM can help to address this common problem. The use of digital dentistry is more common than clinicians might think, as the laboratory processes involved have already been widely implemented and dental technicians can take the credit for driving the use of the technology forwards. The next step is to adopt digital technology to replace some of the clinical steps in fabricating a prosthesis, namely the impression stage, which leads to production of a working cast.

These steps can introduce cumulative inaccuracies, as well as consume a variety of materials that are then discarded. In addition, there are time-savings to be made, perhaps not in the initial stages of learning and integrating new technology, but once familiar with the systems involved, all will benefit from the improved and efficient workflow.

My presentation at the Dental Tribune Study Club Symposium highlighted some of the advantages and disadvantages of CAD/CAM. My goal was to enable clinicians to see how it might become more widely accepted in their daily practice and remove some of their reservations. The next generation of dentists will hopefully come to view traditional methods of manufacturing dental prostheses in the same way as we now view fixed partial dentures as a way to replace missing teeth before implants.

Having received his dental degree from the University of Liverpool in the UK, Dr Steven Soo now works as a dental specialist in prosthodontics at Specialist Dental Group in Singapore. His presentation at the Dental Tribune Study Club Symposium on Level 6 at Suntec City highlighted some of the advantages and disadvantages of CAD/CAM. His goal was to enable clinicians to see how it might become more widely accepted in their daily practice and remove some of their reservations. The next generation of dentists will hopefully come to view traditional methods of manufacturing dental prostheses in the same way as we now view fixed partial dentures as a way to replace missing teeth before implants.

Straumann abutments now available to 3Shape software users

By Dental Tribune International

COPENHAGEN, Denmark/Basel, Switzerland: Global implant manufacturer Straumann and CAD/CAM software provider 3Shape have been working together to integrate Straumann CARES libraries into 3Shape’s software. Yesterday, the new software function was made available to 3Shape software users, enabling them to design and order customised zirconia or titanium abutments with Straumann original implant connections.

Using the new software capabilities, dental technicians who use the 3Shape Dental System software can design abutments and a range of customised prosthetics, including cobalt-chromium alloy, zirconium dioxide, and various full contour materials. These can be ordered with an original Straumann connection.

“My presentation at the Dental Tribune Study Club Symposium on Level 6 at Suntec City highlighted some of the advantages and disadvantages of CAD/CAM. Our goal was to enable clinicians to see how it might become more widely accepted in their daily practice and remove some of their reservations. The next generation of dentists will hopefully come to view traditional methods of manufacturing dental prostheses in the same way as we now view fixed partial dentures as a way to replace missing teeth before implants.”

“In addition, 3Shape customers are now able to connect with Straumann dentists and, thus expand their business opportunities. In addition, 3Shape customers are now able to connect with Straumann dentists and, thus expand their business opportunities.”
event, this year we are involving esteemed speakers as well as fellow dental dealers who are eager to display the latest products in the dental field for 2014.

What are the challenges facing the dental lab order today? OPDL is an established order due to the solidarity of my fellow peers and colleagues. It’s main challenge is to involve securing the rights of our colleagues and perform strict laws for those who would try to practice our profession illegally.

What are your recommendations to the fresh dental lab graduates? I would like to tell all fresh graduates to enrol immediately after their graduation in our dental laboratory order to ensure a better future and uphold healthy tooth structure must be sacrificed to accommodate and retain the restoration. Regardless of the method of fabrication, whether direct or indirect, dental materials used usually exhibit dimensional as well as structural changes through the process leading to an array of problems.

It is paramount for perfect results to standardize procedures as well as different steps taken to fabricate a restoration. Manual fabrication involves numerous errors that are nothing but part of the human nature. The human eyes and hands are not predictable when measuring and evaluating dimensions, angles, spaces, and all other calculations needed to achieve a satisfactory result. Computers are, beyond doubt, far superior to humans in determining such critical parameters.

Rapid developments in the field of CAD/CAM systems in the last decade are bringing us ever closer to our goal. Nowadays, digital workflow can be implemented with great confidence. Scanners, milling units, and 3D printers are getting so precise to the extent that results can exhibit preciseness of few if not single micron tolerances. Utilizing the very well advanced CAD/CAM software, we are able to come up with almost perfect restoration designs. CAM software are following suit. What we see on the screen is often what we got out of the milling unit or the 3D printer. It is the obligation of every one of us to join this fast moving industry. We owe it to our patients as well as to ourselves to get acquainted with and put in use all available technology to offer the best possible treatment.

I believe that Digital and CAD/CAM generated restorations are taking over in setting the standards of dental restorations. They are precise, predictable and much easier to produce. We are, beyond doubt, getting closer to our goal. The perfect restoration seems to be just around the corner.

“The human eyes and hands are not predictable when measuring and evaluating dimensions, angles, spaces, and all other calculations needed to achieve a satisfactory result.”