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“osteoconductive.” Products that stimulate bone to grow in at a faster rate are termed “osteoinductive.” These products usually have an additional ingredient like a “BMP,” or some type of Growth Factor (GF) that cause bone cells to grow at a faster rate.

J. Morita USA, Inc. introduced a new bone augmentation product in February of 2006 and it provides an easy, economical, and efficacious method of maintaining and/or augmenting bone growth in the extraction socket. The product is called Foundation. The FDA has issued a 510(k) clearance for the sale and distribution of the product. It has also been recently approved for sale by Health Canada. The FDA has indicated Foundation for use as follows:

“The Foundation device is a collagen-based bone filling augmentation material for use in the filling of extraction sockets.”

Foundation is a unique material based on the following features:

- made from bovine atelo-collagen which minimizes antigenicity
- cross-linked to achieve biocompatibility
- stimulates new bone growth at an accelerated rate without BMPs or GFs
- a solid, bullet shaped plug for easy placement into the socket
- no need to use multiple materials or membranes
- has been used in Japan since 1998 with great clinical success

The bovine collagen is taken from skin only which is considered no risk for BSE by the EMEA, FDA, and USDA. The majority of the collagen is made into a framework or scaffolding for the bone to grow into. The rest of the collagen is treated in a way that stimulates bone growth cells to be drawn to it. This quality is known as “chemotaxis.” All the collagen is then joined back together and formed into a solid, bullet-shaped plug for easy placement into the extraction socket. Foundation comes in two sizes, small (8mm x 25 mm) and medium (15mm x 25mm).

Atelocollagen has long been used to repair skin, cartilage, and bone in other parts of the body. It is also finding to be useful in gene therapy and was used as a carrier to bring RNA’s to their target cells in a gene therapy project that won this year’s Nobel Prize in Medicine.

There are many products that can assist the dentist with socket preservation. Care should be taken to evaluate products that actually stimulate new bone growth and those that do not. Socket preservation or alveolar ridge augmentation will definitely be a key to future practice of implant dentistry so continued research into these products is very important.

The leading experts on infection control and occupational health and safety will share information of critical concern to dental professionals and others involved in dentistry. The agenda includes networking time and social events, such as the “Surprising Fun Charity Auction, which will feature an astonishing array of vacation packages, gourmet baskets, artwork, apparel, jewelry, literary and sporting goods, and much more. Twenty-two hours of CE credit are available.

The 2007 OSAP Symposium will give attendees the opportunity to learn about dental and infection control trends, find out how to set up infection control programs at their own facilities, and understand how to increase compliance. Internationally-known experts will discuss the latest developments regarding key dental infection prevention and safety issues worldwide, infectious diseases and their impact on systemic health, training tools and techniques, and current developments such as salivary diagnostics.

The OSAP Symposium is designed for infection control and safety instructors, lecturers, authors, and consultants; researchers; dentists; hygienists; assistants; lab technicians; nurses in dental clinics; and dental sales and marketing personnel. A brochure is now available that contains details on the Symposium as well as a registration form. It is available online at www.OSAP.org or can be requested by calling 800.298.OSAP (6727).

OSAP is the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures. Founded in 1984, the non-profit association is dentistry’s premier resource for infection control and safety information. Through its publications, courses, Web site, and worldwide collaborations, OSAP and the tax-exempt OSAP Foundation support education, research, service, and policy development to promote safety and the control of infectious diseases in dental healthcare settings worldwide.