The BioHorizons’ year-long course

For those who have an interest in implants and new techniques, the BioHorizons course at the Tatum Clinic in Birmingham is definitely worth attending, says Neil Nathwani

This one-year course is held once a month on a Saturday from January through to October and it is run by Dr Ben Aghabeigi and Dr Stephen Salt. Dr Ben Aghabeigi is an experienced consultant oral surgeon whose time is spent at Birmingham Hospital and in private practice (Tatum Clinic, Birmingham). He also has 20 years of dental implantology experience.

Dr Stephen Salt is a specialist prosthodontist who has 16 years’ experience in dental implantology. His time is divided between Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital teaching duties and a private practice in London (Century Dental Clinic, Putney).

Fun while learning

Both tutors make the course fun, interactive and since the group is limited, one-to-one teaching is possible. The pair have a constant joking banter and debate of the different controversies in implants and they actively encourage discussion among the group.

The course tutors cover a core curriculum, but are receptive to the educational needs of participants and are flexible in their teaching methods. They provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary introduction to oral implantology.

The course starts from basic principles of implants, which is ideal for those clinicians out there who want to start from the beginning and have only just recently qualified. Basic implant principles, treatment planning including CT scans, surgical techniques, restorative techniques and complications are all examples of the topics that are covered.

Hands-on learning

There are a number of interactive lectures, hands-on techniques, practicing on models: surgical skills of lifting flaps, suturing and placing implants in models to understand how the system works. Every month, live surgeries are demonstrated and course attendees are encouraged to take turns with assisting with surgical implant procedures.

The course aims to allow everyone to have an opportunity to treat their own patients, placing implants under the direct supervision of Dr Aghabeigi and Dr Salt (who are very calm and encouraging) which is an excellent place to start. The BioHorizons’ representatives, Chris, Janet and Sue are also very knowledgeable in discussing the system and explaining queries. The BioHorizons Implant System in particular is a very simple and safe system for beginners to use.

The entire course is well constructed, educational and worth the 70 hours of CPD and certificate received at the end. Knowledge from the course can definitely be applied in practice. The course has been a good experience; I feel I have been able to gain clinical knowledge and clinical skills in a vastly expanding field of dentistry. I would highly recommend the course and look forward to building on the solid foundation that the one year BioHorizons course has given me.