A good impression

Luke Barnett talks about making the most of the latest implant technology and the skills of your laboratory

There are numerous different implant systems with largely the same success levels. Your choice should be determined by the clinical parameters of the case and the patient’s precise requirements rather than a blanket preference.

Choosing a reputable brand – Nobel, 3i, Straumann, Ankylos, BioHorizons, Astra tech, to name a few – ensures that you are working with durable, quality materials designed with a high standard of craftsmanship and the right technical backup.

Zirconium is becoming increasingly popular as an implant material, but its integrity can be compromised by the way it is handled, for example, using the right diamond for adjustments and avoiding rapid or extreme changes in temperature during manufacture. It’s vital to follow the manufacturer’s instructions to ensure a durable outcome and that technicians use great care when designing abutments and substructures. I would however strongly recommend zirconium for use in the aesthetic zone.

Delivering results

Outside the aesthetic zone, and when space permits, titanium is perfectly satisfactory with the most recent brands being gold plated to enhance aesthetics. All ceramic systems, whether zirconium or pressed ceramics etc, will deliver excellent aesthetic results so long as the materials limitations are fully appreciated.

The key to success and good relations is communication. Encourage the use of a tissue model to replicate the gum to aid in the aesthetic zone.

Luke Barnett Laboratories is located in the commercial heart of Watford and has a special interest in implantology and cosmetic dentistry. The Luke Barnett Laboratory is recognised as one of the best in the UK for providing superior general crown and bridge solutions. For more information please contact 01922 355 577 or visit www.lukebarnett.com.

About the author

Luke Barnett has been a highly regarded dental technician for over 50 years. Luke started studying the art of prosthodontics and orthodontics under the guidance of Peter Lasch at Newland’s Dental Laboratory in Golders Green. Graduating in 1980, Luke went into training as a gold worker and received tutoring with master ceramicist Chris Liu. In 1985, under the Enterprise initiative, Luke started his first business, which today has the reputation of a world-class laboratory synonymous with quality crown and bridge production. Luke is currently the chairman of the laboratory committee for the BACD and on the advisory panel for the BDA. Luke also lectures in the specialist field of smile design and works closely with the Aesthetic Advantage Group USA and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

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