Straumann and Ivoclar Vivadent recently announced a partnership agreement that will enable them to offer highly esthetic solutions for tooth replacement and restoration. Under the agreement, Ivoclar Vivadent will supply its proprietary high-performance IPS e.max ceramic technology to Straumann for use in the latter’s dental prosthetic solutions, both implant and tooth borne.

The first combined product, the Straumann Anatomic IPS e.max Abutment was launched at the International Dental Show (IDS) in March and will be available in Europe next month and in North America from June onwards. A range of Straumann CAD/CAM prosthetics in IPS e.max lithium disilicate ceramics will also be launched in the coming months.

IPS e.max ceramics
The strength and machining characteristics of Ivoclar’s IPS e.max zirconium dioxide ceramic make it ideal for the fabrication of durable, high-precision implant prosthetics (abutments). Being ceramic, it provides an excellent foundation for a highly esthetic final restoration. The IPS e.max lithium disilicate ceramics are used for final restorations on implant abutments or on natural teeth.

Strength, quality and durability combined with translucence and natural vitality are the distinguishing properties that make it a material of choice for highly esthetic results that are virtually indistinguishable from natural teeth.

Anatomic abutments
Straumann offers a broad range of standard and custom implant abutments in a range of materials, including anatomic abutments in titanium.

Anatomic abutments are pre-shaped, standardized implant prosthetics that can be modified both in the dental laboratory and the practice. The new Straumann Anatomic IPS e.max abutment offers a flexible, “off-the-shelf” solution. It comes in two gingival heights, two shades and two configurations (straight and angled).

In its sintered state, IPS e.max can be easily shaped by grinding. Like the customized CAD/CAM ceramic abutment, it takes ceramic down into the bone and provides a natural-looking tooth base for an all-ceramic restoration. Straumann is the only company to offer an all-ceramic abutment made from the IPS e.max (zirconium dioxide) material.

Designed for use with Straumann’s new-generation Bone Level Implant range, the new abutment features the innovative CrossFit connection for convenient handling, optimal pressure distribution and precise tight fit. It also makes use of the Bone Control Design concept and the existing Straumann planning and instrument set.

Flexible and efficient abutments made from enhanced materials offer multiple advantages to dental professionals and patients including enhanced esthetics, greater efficiency and added predictability in the final restoration.

Super esthetic restorations
Straumann supplies CAD/CAM copings, crowns and bridges in a range of modern materials including zircon (ceramic), ticon (titanium), coron (cobalt chrome) and polycon (polymer).

The addition of IPS e.max lithium disilicate ceramics enables the company to offer super esthetic crowns, inlays, onlays and veneers in various shades and translucencies along with all the advantages of the Straumann CAD/CAM solution. The first lithium disilicate ceramic products (copings and crowns) will become available in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland in June, followed by the full range throughout Europe by year end.

(Source: Straumann)
Materialise in full force at AO annual meeting

At the 2009 Academy of Osseointegration Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif., Materialise Dental was there in full force with a booth displaying the SimPlant® CompatAbility business model. Booth visitors were invited to satisfy their quest for knowledge on 3-D digital dentistry while enjoying a 3-D digital gaming experience with the possibility to take home their very own Nintendo Wii with the purchase of a SimPlant Package.

Versatility for all levels of users

Materialise Dental focuses on 3-D digital dentistry, offering a range of products and services to implant professionals and their patients. From scanning and planning, to drilling and implant placement, to the ultimate Immediate Smile®, the company’s SimPlant technology offers clinicians a comprehensive 5-D system for accurate and predictable implant treatment. The SimPlant system is cost-effective, user-friendly and uniquely compatible with the brands and equipment that clinicians already know and use.

3-D digital dentistry & 3-D digital gaming

The Materialise Dental booth was full of members, faculty, speakers, industry patrons and students throughout the breaks, lunches and reception on Thursday. Its theme “5-D Digital Dentistry meets 3-D Digital Gaming” was on display as they entertained passers-by with their Nintendo Wii promotion.

This year’s annual meeting theme was “A New Wave in Implant Therapy,” and one couldn’t help but notice an underlying tone to that theme during all of the main podium lectures, corporate forums and breakout sessions — (CB) CT guided treatment planning using three-dimensional tools. In the AstraTech Dental corporate forum, Dr. Scott Ganz talked about the integration of technologies including Facilitate and Atlantis abutments to reach an optimal esthetic and prosthetic result. Dr. Alan Rosenberg spoke about “The art of computer-guided navigation for implant placement and immediate provisionalization” while Dr. Michael Block spoke about “Patient selection criteria and avoidance of CT guidance related complications” during the BIOMET 3i corporate forum. Other implant companies, such as Straumann, also hosted corporate forums and included the importance of computer-guided implant dentistry. Throughout the entire meeting, immediate loading using guided surgery was a large topic of interest for both speakers and participants.

(Source: Materialise Dental)

Crescent can help make your clients comfortable

How often have your patients experienced neck or back problems during their visit to your practice? How often have you experienced discomfort because the patient is not positioned in the dental chair properly? If either of those questions brings a common scenario to mind, you will be pleased to know that there is a very simple, inexpensive solution for you.

Crescent Products, Inc., developed a memory-foam comfort product line specifically for the dental chair. These products enable patients to experience comfort unlike any they’ve ever had in a dental chair, and they enable you to properly position the patient for treatment — making your job easier.

The dental headrest, dental backrest and premium chair pads are made with memory foam, allowing patients to conform to the product, providing them much needed support and eliminating tension during their procedure.

The headrest allows the patients’ heads to angle back, bringing their chins upward and allowing for easier access for their treatment. The backrest is a memory foam pillow that supports the lumbar area, eliminating strain to the lower back. In conjunction with the headrest and backrest, the patients receive additional hip and lower back pain relief with the Crescent Products Knee Support. When the knees are elevated, the tension is immediately eliminated in those areas.

If you haven’t yet tried these products, it is time to experience them today! View all the products at www.crescentproducts.com/dental.htm. You can reach Crescent Products at (800) 989-8085.
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“I just got back from LVI and my world has changed. I can’t possibly look at dentistry the same way again!”
— Dr. Balaji Srinivasan

“My LVI education has enabled me to not only survive, but to thrive.”
— Dr. James R. Harold

“There is nothing out there that even comes close to the LVI experience. The amount of enthusiasm I am bringing home with me is unbelievable. What an experience and a treat!”
— Dr. Robert S. Maupin

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LVI Global is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider
Nobel globally launches system at IDS

At the 33rd International Dental Show (IDS), Nobel Biocare globally launched its state-of-the-art NobelProcera™ system with new prosthetic products and materials. It also extended the successful Nobel-Active™ launch by introducing a complete NobelActive prosthetic assortment and presented updated long-term Ti-Unite® data on the most widely-used osseointegrative biomaterial.

With these latest introductions, together with the long-term success of its clinically proven implant surface, Nobel Biocare is reinforcing its commitment to the market and to dental professionals by offering solutions that are exclusively science-based and focus on exceeding clinical and esthetic patient requirements.

The new NobelProcera system includes an innovative new optical scanner and a prosthetic design software package as well as an extended material and product offer, which will set new standards in the CAD/CAM development, design and manufacturing of dental prosthetics, especially for fully edentulous indications. With this new NobelProcera system, laboratories and clinicians can expect a vast improvement in their design and production efficiency and precision with the full range of Nobel Biocare treatment options.

- **New innovative optical scanner.** The new NobelProcera optical scanner uses the patented conoscopic holography technology, which offers precision, speed and accuracy as well as new scanning ability. Conoscopic holography technology was developed by Optimet and has been well-proven in the aerospace and automotive industries. This is the first application of conoscopic holography in dentistry, and Nobel Biocare owns the exclusive rights to this application. The new optical scanner provides clear advantages for dental laboratories: ease of use, highly precise measurements and an intuitive holder design that enables fast batch scanning.

  Most important, conoscopic holography enables scanning of steep angulations and undercuts, thereby opening up new opportunities such as impression scanning.

- **New cutting-edge prosthetic software.** Supporting the new optical scanner, Nobel Biocare is now introducing cutting-edge 3D prosthetic design software. The software has been developed by the Canadian company BioCad, which Nobel Biocare acquired in 2008. The software significantly simplifies the prosthetic design process. With excellent visual guidance through each step of the design workflow, the software allows laboratories to design prosthetics more effectively and precisely than before. Technicians are able to click on a button to choose the desired material, define prefabricated retentive elements and select automated CAD options for customized crowns and bridges. And in the near future, tele-scopic abutments, crowns and bars will also be available.

The new NobelProcera software offers technicians a highly advanced CAD dentistry tool with nearly unlimited design possibilities and features such as an anatomic tooth library, automatic cut-back functions, automatic setting of the finish line, a margin-setting function and a morphologic connector design.

- **Launch of full shaded zirconia assortment.** Following the success of the shaded NobelProcera Crowns Zirconia, Nobel Biocare has launched the full assortment of shaded zirconia at the IDS, including abutments, copings, bridges and implant bridges. In contrast to immersion dyeing, the unique coloring process for NobelProcera Zirconia ensures color homogeneity throughout each restoration, while maintaining superior flexural strength (1080MPa), an excellent marginal fit and optimal translucency.

  External studies (Nordic Institute of Dental Material NIOM NobelProcera Zirconia testing: S306208B, S306205B) have shown no degradation in strength compared to white zirconia. The new NobelProcera launch includes shaded zirconia solutions for natural-tooth retained (4-unit anterior and 5-unit posterior) and implant-supported long span bridges (3-14 units) in both white and shaded zirconia.

- **Launch of new materials for cost-effective solutions.** The introduction of the NobelProcera system will enable the use of new materials and products that complement today’s comprehensive material range consisting of alumina, zirconia and titanium. These new materials will include cobalt-chrome for crowns and bridges, and acrylics for different indications.

  These additions, coupled with the new optical scanner and software, will make for a complete, state-of-the-art system for laboratories, allowing lab owners to streamline their model and fix departments. Nobel Biocare has created the basis for the most complete, best quality oral rehabilitation platform available in dentistry today.

(Source: Nobel Biocare)