A significant majority of dental implant patients are older with facial aging and their dentists may need to consider the benefits of rejuvenation techniques, such as Botox, for maximizing the cosmetic outcomes of the procedure, according to a leading cosmetic surgeon speaking at the American Academy of Implant Dentistry annual meeting in October.

Joseph Niamtu III, DMD, is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who transformed the main focus of his Virginia-based practice to cosmetic facial surgery.

He told the AAID audience that for many dental implant patients, restoring facial volume is as critical as the dental restoration for achieving optimal cosmetic outcomes.

“The face is the frame for cosmetic dentistry, and dentists should consider the benefits of facial volume restoration when performing implant surgery on older patients with facial aging,” Niamtu said. “The standard today requires consideration of facial structures and volume restoration to maximize patient satisfaction with cosmetic and restorative dental procedures.”

Niamtu said all states allow dentists to give Botox injections for purely dental reasons, such as relieving temporomanidibular (TMJ) pain but not for cosmetic purposes. He added that approximately 8 percent of dentists in North America now provide Botox cosmetic treatment for patients, and the number is growing as state dental boards lobby to allow dentists to use the agent for cosmetic dentistry.

Most dentists, however, still are not aware of the considerable benefits Botox offers for cosmetic dental treatment, according to Niamtu.

“How often do we see perfectly restored teeth framed by thin or wrinkled lips?” he asked. “Soft tissues around the mouth are just as important as nicely restored white teeth in creating an attractive smile.”

Also, for older dental implant patients with facial aging, the corners of the mouth begin to turn down and wrinkles appear around the lips.

Niamtu advised that Botox can be used by dentists to relax affected muscles to raise mouth corners and smooth wrinkles to assure successful and satisfying outcomes.

Niamtu said Botox therapy is a natural and logical expansion for dental practices.

“Dentists have as much training and knowledge in the oral and maxillofacial area as dermatologists and other providers, so they, with proper training, can be as proficient in administering Botox, Restylane and other filling agents. This clearly is the new future for the achieving optimal esthetic outcomes in the delivery of cosmetic and restorative dental care.”

About AAID

Based in Chicago, AAID is the first organization dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of implant dentistry by supporting research and education to advance comprehensive implant knowledge.

**Dr. Joseph Niamtu III speaks at the AAID’s annual meeting in Boston. (Photo/Sierra Rendon, Managing Editor)**
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Scenes from the AAID in Boston

Astra Tech introduces the OsseoSpeed™ TX to AAID attendees at the annual meeting in Boston during October.

Implant Direct President Gerald Niznick, center, shows attendees how the company’s System of Systems can incorporate multiple implant systems.

Dr. Michael Pogliz speaks to a sold-out audience at a hands-on workshop, ‘Immediate Implant Placement in Fresh Extraction Sites,’ sponsored by MIS.

Art Carmona, right, speaks with John Freer at the ACE Surgical booth.

Patricia Bradyhouse, Nazanin Ghafouri and Elizabeth Hanson introduce to AAID attendees the Osstell meters, which make it possible not only to measure the initial implant stability but also to monitor the development of osseointegration over time.

Josh DeLauter and Molly Usrey of BioHorizons worked with AAID attendees to explain the company’s implants, surgical-planning software and tissue-regeneration solutions.

Dr. Michael Peleg speaks to a sold-out audience at a hands-on workshop, ‘Immediate Implant Placement in Fresh Extraction Sites,’ sponsored by MIS.

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Photos by Sierra Rendon, Managing Editor

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