India set to launch domestic implant

Primary objective is to provide affordable treatment

By Daniel Zimmermann
Dental Tribune International

A government-funded low-cost dental implant from India is said to be close to market release. The new tooth replacement developed by Dehli researchers as part of the country's New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative is supposed to take on the country's high prevalence of edentulism.

According to government statistics, between 12 and 30 percent of Indians older than age 60 are suffering from complete tooth loss.

The project, which is said to have cost almost $1 million, took five years to complete and is now undergoing human trials.

Previous research on rabbits has shown promising results in regard to strength and susceptibilility of the implant, lead researcher Prof. Mahesh Verma from the Maulana Azad Institute of Medical Sciences in New Dehli said.

While final costs for commercial release still need to be calculated, they are expected to be significantly less than other tooth replacements currently available in the market.

“It will be kept affordable as that is the primary objective for this development,” Dr. Verma told Dental Tribune Asia Pacific. “It’s to serve the Indian masses.”

Most dental implants placed in India are imported from overseas and, therefore, only affordable to a small part of the population.

Imports are estimated to cost between $550 and $850 while the national average monthly income has only tipped $65 in 2009, according to figures of the Central Statistical Organization.

Verma estimates that 60,000 to 70,000 implants are placed by dentists in India each year, which falls short compared to its neighbor China. The country is also competing with other countries in the increasing medical and dental tourism market.

Implants abroad

Italy will be the site this spring of SENAME’s eighth International Implant Conference and ICOI Italy and Europe second International Conference. (Photo/stock.xchng)

ICOI affiliate societies start 2011 with meetings in Spain and Italy

By Craig Johnson, ICOI Executive Director

The ICOI and two of its affiliate societies will be holding implant symposia to start the new year.

Spain
The Spanish College of Oral Implantologists, SCOI, will hold its first National Symposium in historic Granada, Spain, March 31-April 2. The symposium will be held at the Granada Exposition and Convention Center.

Following a successful regional meeting in Madrid in 2009, the SCOI is optimistic about this upcoming symposium and the attendance the following faculty will bring to the event.


Topics to be covered in the symposium are: new tendencies in implant prosthetic; update on biomaterials; perimplantitis management; esthetics in implantology; stem cells for bone regeneration; maintenance in implantology; socket preservation; and soft-tissue management.

The symposium will also feature courses for laboratory technicians and hygienists.

SCOI President Dr. Pablo Galindo and SCOI Vice President Dr. Ildefonso Moreno look forward to welcoming all delegates to this educational symposium and to sharing in the typical Spanish hospitality that his meeting in Granada will offer.

First-ever international conference on dental and craniofacial stem cells planned for 2011

Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine recently announced that it will host the First International Conference on Dental and Craniofacial Stem Cells (ICDCSC) to take place on April 27-29.

This will be the first ever assembly of the world's most prominent scientists in the field of dental and craniofacial stem cells.

More than 500 internationally renowned scientists and leaders in the field will come together to encourage cross-disciplinary alliance and foster a collegial atmosphere to catalyze the advancement of dental and craniofacial stem cell research.

The conference will be led by Dr. Jeremy Mao of Columbia University, Dr. Darvin Prockop of Texas A&M Medical Center, and Dr. Pamela Robey and Dr. Nadya Lamedsky of the NIDCR.

“The discovery of stem cells derived from dental pulp has generated enormous enthusiasm and momentum for stem cell research as these stem cells can be harvested noninvasively and have great plasticity and efficacy,” Mao said. “We are very excited to bring together the leading scientists and researchers from around the world to share and further their knowledge on dental and craniofacial stem cells to propel breakthroughs in stem cell research and forever change medicine.”

Current studies show that dental stem cells are on the verge of drastically changing treatments that run the gamut from dental implants to reconstructive surgery, as researchers have been able to re-grow both teeth and jawbone.

Moreover, dental stem cells demonstrate tremendous promise in advancing the field of regenerative medicine, which continues to make important strides in addressing degenerative diseases and organ re-growth.

To register for the conference, go to www.dental.columbia.edu/ICDCSC/ or e-mail mce2123@columbia.edu.