New research has suggested that samples of exhaled breath could be a cost-effective and cheap alternative for diagnosing lung cancer compared to conventional methods. In the most extensive study to date, the researchers were able to diagnose the majority of cases of lung cancer correctly using a special screening technology.

In the study, researchers at the University of Latvia collected breath samples from 252 lung cancer patients, 223 patients diagnosed with other lung diseases and healthy individuals, 265 non-smokers, and 210 smokers. Assessing the samples with an electronic nose, a technology that detects different profiles of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in breath samples, 128 non-smokers and 114 smokers were correctly diagnosed as having lung cancer. Overall, only ten people were misdiagnosed. Although the researchers have not yet clearly identified which VOCs are linked to different diseases, this study suggests that this method can be used to differentiate between lung cancer, other lung diseases and healthy people. According to the European Lung Foundation, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality in Europe and worldwide. It accounts for an estimated 20 per cent of all cancer deaths. The findings were presented at the European Respiratory Society’s annual congress that was held from 7 to 11 September in Barcelona.

Demographic data shows that populations around the world are becoming increasingly older, which leaves dental professionals with a high number of compromised patients and risk factors when it comes to dental implant treatment. Therefore, the demand for products that might reduce the need for invasive grafting procedures is high.

Straumann intends to meet the demand by broadening its Roxolid SLActive implant portfolio. At the EAO congress in Dublin, the global market leader in dental implantology introduced its unique dental implant material Roxolid for all diameters and all implant lines. Moreover, the company announced the launch of a new 4 mm short Roxolid SLActive implant line to be used in clinical cases with limited vertical space, as with severely atrophied jawbone. All Roxolid SLActive implants feature the new Loxim transfer piece to simplify the handling. The combination of the high mechanical strength of Roxolid with the excellent osseointegration properties of the hydrophilic SLActive surface may allow dental professionals to avoid GBR procedures by choosing smaller sized implants, Straumann said.

Research has shown that the use of smaller diameters or shorter implant lengths can reduce the invasiveness of implant treatments and increase patient acceptance if invasive grafting procedures can be eliminated. Therefore, clinicians can reduce the treatment time, preserve vital peri-implant structures, decrease postsurgical complications, and gain new implant patients by offering products that seek to eliminate guided bone regeneration procedures. In these cases, patients can benefit from a less traumatic, less expensive and shorter treatment with a lifelong implant solution. All implants are covered by Straumann’s lifelong implant warranty.

In addition to numerous implantological presentations and exceptional evening events, a visit to the Bicon headquarters was an essential part of the diversified programme. The event was hosted by Prof. Dr Mauro Marincola/Rome, Italy. His opening remark was that shortness does not always mean a disadvantage—a reference to the Bicon Short Implants, which have been applied in the practice successfully for over 28 years and for which Bicon has become famous.

SHORT® Implants were introduced to the market in 1985. Since then, they offer innovative solutions for implantologists worldwide. The special plateau design makes the application of short implants possible. In contrast to other implant systems, the Bicon system shows restorative flexibility which is achieved by the 360° universal positioning of the abutments. In addition, the “sloping shoulder” results in excellent aesthetics of the gingiva. Since the bone is supported by the implant shoulder, it can in turn support and thus preserve the interproximal papilla. Numerous international speakers gave recent insight into the world of implantology, among the Bicon president Vincent J. Morgan, DMD, USA, with his speech “Past, Present, and Future of Bicon”.

From 13 to 15 September, Boston/USA became the meeting point of renowned speakers from Germany, Italy and the USA. They all followed the exclusive invitation by Bicon Dental Implants to their International VIP Meeting 2013 at the Harvard Club of Boston.