Global oral health in the context of preventive/treatment interventions and materials

By Dr Peter Cooney, Canada

Canada recently completed an oral health survey that established the current oral health status of Cana-
dians and, in addition to describing the needs of the population, it es-
tablished a baseline to which the interventions (or a combination of a few interventions) may be more suitable after an assessment of the situation.

In terms of treatment options, an understanding of the individual or community is also vital when making clinical decisions involving different dental materials. For example, when deciding between composite or amalgam fillings for treatment of caries, establishing the ease of access to a dental professional and the size of the cavity are key. Amalgam is inexpen-
sive, durable, and relatively fast and easy to place. Composites may cost more, may not be as strong or durable in locations where they are subject to forces produced by chewing, and are often more difficult to place. In some remote communities limited access to a dental professional, amalgam fillings may be the material of choice.

In summary, it is essential when making an intervention or treatment decision to evaluate and consider the results of a thorough needs assess-
ment, the pros, cons, and effectiveness of the proposed intervention, as well as the associated costs. This detailed planning from the outset will translate into health improvements in a population.

Dr Peter Cooney is the Chief Dental Officer of Canada. This morning, he will present a paper on dental materials together with Dr Gottfried Schmalz from Germany in Hall F of the HKCEC.

One out of five implant patients are likely to develop peri-implantitis

An interview with Dr Frank Schwarz, Germany

This afternoon, the German implantology expert Dr Frank Schwarz will be presenting a lecture on the successful treatment of peri-implantitis. World Dental Daily had to opportunity to speak with him about the condition and the latest treatment approaches.

Peri-implantitis seems to remain a huge clinical problem. What chal-

enge does the condition pose to the dental community?

Owing to the increasing number of dental implants placed, post-implant complications will gain relevance in the future.

How many patients are estimated to be affected?

According to the current consensus statement by the European As-
sociation of Osseointegration, one out of five implant patients are likely to develop peri-implantitis. Similar estimates concerning mucositis are lacking.

Experts say that the number of implant treatments will increase above average in the next few years, particularly in Asia. What conse-
quences will this have on the dental community in the region regarding peri-implantitis?

Besides the need for more re-
search activities in this important field, measures have to be imple-
menced to assure quality, as well as educational standards for dentists who want to offer implant treatment. We must also consider the impor-
tance of interventional factors, which can promote peri-implant infections.

A number of treatment methods for peri-implantitis are available. Con-
sidering the latest research findings, of which these are likely to have the most successful clinical outcome?

In general, surgical procedures seem to have an advantage over non-
surgical treatment approaches.

Is there one effective method of treatment or is a combination of dif-
ferent methods that ensures long-
term success?

For a successful therapeutic out-
come, different factors have to be taken into account. The configuration and morphology of peri-implant bone defects, which have been considered to be of lesser importance, seem to play a very important role actually.

New implants and implant surfaces promise even better osseointe-
gration. Will this have an effect on the development and treatment of peri-
implantitis?

New implant modifications have to be studied and assessed with re-
gard to these aspects.

I What are the most promising treat-
ment approaches, in your opinion?

I will give a comprehensive review of them in my FDI lecture on Thursday.

I Thank you very much.