Peri-implantitis

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Foreword

As implants have become a widely accepted and – in certain parts of the world – a popular therapy in the restoration of partially and completely edentulous patients, peri-implantitis, i.e. the infection of the peri-implant region will be encountered with increasing frequency. Hence, it is evident that in the future, peri-implant diseases will occupy the practicing dentist more and more.

Consequently, the comprehensive knowledge of the etiology, pathogenesis and epidemiology of peri-implant diseases is of great relevance to address proper protocols for the prevention and therapy of these diseases.

While the aspects mentioned usually get recognition in single chapters in more recent textbooks, the comprehensive review of the topic in a monograph specially devoted to the clinical entity of peri-implantitis is a rare occurrence. Only few authors have so far addressed this important issue of a novel disease pattern that – in part – may be similar to periodontitis and yet may differ from the latter in its susceptibility and pathogenesis.

In that respect, the present monograph provides a comprehensive insight into all aspects of these diseases. Special emphasis is given to the diagnosis of mucositis and periimplantitis. Probing the peri-implant sulcus on a regular basis is recommended, and evidence for the importance of such clinical monitoring is provided. Emergence of early clinical signs of mucositis reflects the host response to the bacterial challenge. Recognition of such signs may represent the most relevant way of preventing the more advanced level of disease, namely peri-implantitis.

Risk indicators and possible risk factors for the development of peri-implant diseases are carefully selected and discussed on the basis of scientific evidence. This topic usually does not get the necessary attention in other textbook chapters on the issue.

The monograph finally addresses the therapy of both mucositis and peri-implantitis. Clinically efficacious procedures to cope with these diseases are presented. Both nonsurgical and surgical approaches are discussed. A chapter on regular supportive care of the implant patient concludes the book. Maintenance was recognized as being the most important aspect for preventing peri-implant diseases, and adequate attention is given to this protocol.

The monograph is highly recommended not only to graduate students and teachers, but especially to the dentist or specialist practicing implant dentistry. The authors are congratulated for a comprehensive and competent review of this emerging field of dentistry that will certainly become one of the major activities in dentistry in the years to come.

Niklaus P. Lang

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Preface

During the last 20 years dental implants and implants supported suprastructures have become a commonly used alternative to conventional removable and fixed partial dentures. The high survival rate reported in several 10 year follow-up studies has led to a widespread acceptance and use of dental implants. Indeed the indications for implant placement have widened because of the development of new treatment techniques. In most of the early clinical studies, the quality of the therapeutic outcomes was assessed in terms of survival rates, referring to the physical presence of the implant in the oral cavity. At the outset, authors were paying more attention to the mechanical incidents explaining implant loss than to the biologic causes. Nowadays, we are witnessing a growing awareness of the role played by the health status of peri-implant tissues on the survival of implants. Although the general impression of implant therapy is that the success rate is high, infections defined as peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis are commonly found. As with periodontal diseases, peri-implant mucositis and periimplantitis are recognized as inflammatory diseases of infectious origin, ultimately leading to loss of bone supporting the implant. Peri-implant mucositis is defined as an inflammatory lesion limited to the surrounding mucosa, whereas periimplantitis also affects the supporting bone. The control of these diseases is essential for all clinicians who desire to obtain long-term positive results with implants and for all those interested in the prevention and the treatment of oral infections.

According to available epidemiologic data, it appears that one out of five patients will develop peri-implantitis over time and that peri-implant mucositis is a very common phenomenon among implant patients. At present there are limited scientific data on the treatment of peri-implant diseases, and most treatment modalities are adapted from those used for the treatment of periodontal diseases; the primary therapeutic approach being aimed at controlling infection. This may involve adjustment of prostheses to allow for proper oral hygiene and professional removal of the biofilm and hard deposits from the implant surface. In advanced peri-implantitis cases a surgical approach may be necessary to gain access to disrupt and remove the biofilm. If appropriate at such a surgical intervention, regenerative treatments to regain the lost bone may also be performed. At present, therapeutic interventions in peri-implantitis cases are, in many instances, based on clinical experience as robust clinical data are lacking in many areas. However, research activity in this field is very high, and new data are continuously produced with the expectation of clearer guidelines for the treatment of these conditions in the future.

For practitioners who wish to avoid periimplant mucositis and peri-implantitis, the early diagnosis of problems using a periodontal probe and the evaluation of the health status around implants is essential. Early diagnosis allows for early intervention that, as highlighted in this book, is very effective. If early signs are overlooked the treatment options become both more complicated and less predictable.

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Pathogenesis

peri-implant disease microflora may include *Fusobacterium nucleatum* and *Actinomyces* species as well as *Staphylococcus aureus* and enterococci.^{12,13} *S aureus* has been observed to colonize other foreign bodies; complications may result, for example, at the site of hip transplants. Titanium favors colonization with *S aureus*, which is commonly found around dental implants.¹⁴⁻¹⁶

It has been suggested that the microflora present in the oral cavity at the time of implant placement may influence the developing biofilm on the implants. Accordingly, periodontal pockets surrounding teeth may act as a reservoir for microorganisms that colonize the newly inserted implants^{6,17} (Fig 1-3).

Microflora

The concept that microorganisms are essential for the development of infections around dental implants is well supported in the literature¹⁻⁷ (Fig 1-1). Shortly after implants have been placed, glycoproteins from the saliva adhere



Fig 1-1 Dental plaque on an exposed implant surface.

to the exposed titanium surfaces. The glycoprotein layer is then colonized by microorganisms.7-10 A subgingival microbiota dominated by Peptostreptococcus micros, Fusobacterium nucleatum, and Prevotella intermedia is established.⁸ Peri-implant diseases are associated with a predominantly gram negative anaerobic microflora similar to that associated with periodontitis. High levels of peri-odontal pathogens including Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans, Porphyromonas gingivalis, Prevotella intermedia, Tannerella forsythia, and Treponema denticola have been associated with peri-implantitis¹¹ (Fig 1-2). Studies have also suggested that



Fig 1-3 Radiographs from a patient with periodontal disease in which implants were placed. Progression of disease is verified by resorption of bone around both teeth and implants after 3 years.



Fig 1-2 Growth of anaerobic microorganisms on an agar plate.





The same classifications may be used when the implants have been placed at a minimal distance from each other, and the proximal bone between implants is totally resorbed (Fig 2-20). When that happens, the defects are more significant, with no bony wall between the two proximal defects; however, these defects could still be classified as (1) circumferential craterlike four-wall defects, (2) three-wall defects, (3) two-wall defects, or (4) one-wall defects.



circumferential four-wall defect, three-wall defect, two-wall defect, or one-wall defect.



Initial radiograph.

Initial clinical view.





Flap elevation to detect any remnants of cement.





Elimination of excess of cement and suturing of the flap.



Clinical view after healing.





Radiograph at the time of loading.



Bleeding on probing and radiograph a few days after placement of the prosthesis.



Piece of veneer removed.

If guided bone regeneration is performed at the time of implant placement, granules of bone substitute may become encapsulated in the soft tissue and act as a foreign body. This situation may result in peri-implantitis, necessitating a surgical procedure to eliminate the nonintegrated granules and granulation tissue (Fig 5-33).

Fig 5-31 The presence of cement remnants around an implant resulted in a deep pocket and bone loss. Open-flap surgery was required to remove the cement and to decontaminate the abutment and the implant surface.



Clinical view a few days after placement of the prosthesis.



Fig 5-32 Some nonradiopaque products are used for cementation of crowns on the implants. If excess material is left in the pocket, infection and bone loss around the implants may result soon after cementation. Because these materials are not visible on radiographs, a differential diagnosis may be difficult, and a surgical procedure will be needed to clean the area.



Fig 7-21 The stability of the mucosal margin around implants is influenced by the nature of soft tissue and the underlying bone. It is desirable to have an adequate height of keratinized mucosa and no bony dehiscence.

The biotype primarily affects the development of buccal recession and does not affect interproximal papillary heights.²² The papillary level around singletooth implants in the anterior maxilla is affected by the interproximal bone crest level of the adjacent teeth, whereas the facial marginal mucosal level is affected by peri-implant tissue biotype, level of the facial bone crest, angle of the implant fixture, level of the interproximal bone crest, depth of implant platform, and level of first bone-to-implant contact²³ (Fig 7-22). In the anterior region, the techniques used in periodontal plastic surgery can be used to improve the esthetic results around implants, but in the presence of a bony dehiscence, the deficient buccal bone should also be reconstructed.







Fig 7-22 A single implant was used to replace a missing central incisor. *The preservation of the interdental papillae is favored by the thick* mucosa and the presence of interproximal bone.

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