

**Media release** 08/04

## **New follow-up data confirm the long-term esthetic stability of dental implant restorations**

- Longest case overview of anterior dental implants *presented at European Association of Osseointegration scientific meeting in Paris*
- Esthetic parameters tracked in more than 100 implants most of which have been in place for more than 10 years

At the 13<sup>th</sup> Scientific Meeting of the European Association of Osseointegration (EAO) in Paris, the longest case overview of its kind of dental implants in the anterior 'esthetic' region of the upper jaw (maxilla) was presented at a plenary session<sup>1</sup> on Saturday, 18 September 2004. The data were collected in collaboration with the Universities of Bern and Geneva and refer to more than 100 Straumann/ITI implants, the majority of which had been in place for longer than 10 years.

As implant dentistry is still a relatively young discipline, the long-term documentation that exists in the literature mainly concerns functional stability and is based primarily on experience with edentulous patients. Owing to the high success rates of osseointegration and functional stability, the current focus in implant dentistry has intensified on predictable long-term esthetic outcome, particularly in the most visible and challenging front region of the mouth.

### **Long-term follow-up**

Since the first attempts at implant-based anterior restoration were made approximately 15 years ago, little scientific data have been published on implants in the front region of the mouth and there are practically no studies that have assessed long-term esthetic parameters. Neither is there substantial long-term documentation that draws comparisons with data available for edentulous patients.

This underlines the significance of the new long-term *follow-up data, presented at the EAO meeting.*

The investigators began in 1997 to track implants that had been placed in the anterior region of the maxilla and which had been in place and functional for at least two years. Their overview sought to follow cohorts of implants longitudinally, with subsequent assessments carried out in 2000 and 2003.

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<sup>1</sup> Long-term stability of esthetic implants: Urs C. Belser, Chairman of the Department of Fixed Prosthodontics and Occlusion at the University of Geneva, and Fellow of the International Team for Implantology (ITI), the exclusive academic partner of Straumann.

In total, more than 100 implants have been followed, of which more than fifty percent have been in place for longer than 10 years. More specifically the overview included two long-term cohort studies, one up to 9 years and the other up to 12 years after implant placement.

The **cohort up to 9 years** comprised 61 implants placed in 45 patients for single crown restorations in each case. Based on an observation period of 4 to 9 years (mean 6.8 years), the investigators observed that with appropriate oral hygiene, the intracrevicular position of the restoration margin did not appear to adversely affect peri-implant health and stability<sup>2</sup>.

The **cohort study up to 12 years** comprised: 135 implants, which had been in place for 2-7 years in 94 patients; 124 implants which had been in place for 5-10 years in 88 patients; and 117 implants, which had been in place for 813 years in 81 patients. The long-term clinical assessment showed that the distance between the implant shoulder and the mucosal margin (DIM) remained stable. Radiographic examination revealed that distance between the implant shoulder and the bone (DIB) was also stable.

The follow-up therefore demonstrated with a relatively high degree of certainty that the tissue framework remains extremely stable. It was even more stable than the coronal soft tissue level on the neighbouring natural teeth. The data also led to the conclusion that, with regard to bone level, the development in the esthetic region is practically identical to that of new implants in the posterior region.

### **Esthetic campaign launched at EAO**

Straumann benefited from the EAO platform to launch an 'esthetics' campaign designed to increase awareness of the procedures and products that are necessary for achieving predictable, lasting, high-end esthetic results, and to draw attention to some of the pitfalls.

In addition to the company-sponsored Corporate Forum on 'High-end esthetics in private practice', Straumann released a 'special' edition of the magazine 'Starget', which includes an article on the assessment of esthetic risk factors and other science-based articles on esthetics. The company is also publishing an 'Esthetics Casebook', an illustrated compilation of implant-based tooth-restoration cases from nine different countries.

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<sup>2</sup>Giannopoulou C., Bernard J., Buser D., Carrel A., Belser U.: *Effect of intracrevicular restoration margins on peri-implant health: clinical, biochemical, and microbiologic findings around esthetic implants up to 9 years. J. Oral Maxillofac. Implants* 18(2) 2003: 173-81

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**Contacts:**

Mark Hill, Corporate Communication

(+41) 061 965 1321

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Headquartered in Waldenburg, Switzerland, Straumann (SWX: STMN) is a global leader in implant dentistry and dental tissue regeneration. In collaboration with the International Team for Implantology (ITI), leading clinics, research institutes and universities, the Group researches, develops, produces and distributes implants, instruments and tissue regeneration products for use in tooth replacement solutions or to prevent tooth loss. Straumann also provides training and services to the dental profession worldwide. Straumann's implants and instruments are manufactured in Switzerland, whilst its dental tissue regeneration products are produced in Sweden. With affiliates in 14 countries and distributors in 35, Straumann employs more than 1000 people worldwide. In 2003, the Group generated sales of CHF 344 million and a net income of CHF 80 million.

**Straumann Holding AG**, Hauptstrasse 26, 4427 Waldenburg, Switzerland

Phone: +41 (0)61 965 11 11 / Fax: +41 (0)61 965 11 01

e-mail: [investor.relations@straumann.com](mailto:investor.relations@straumann.com) or [info@straumann.com](mailto:info@straumann.com)

Homepage: [www.straumann.com](http://www.straumann.com)

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