

Germany's first implantologist

Prof. Dr Hans L. Grafelmann turns 92

The founder of dental implantology in Germany, Prof. Dr Hans L. Grafelmann, today looks back on a full and eventful life. In 1968, he pioneered in placing Germany's first dental implants in the form of extension implants in his dental practice. Today, his former patient still carries her fully functional dentures.

In fact, Prof. Dr Grafelmann's CV, the resume of a dentist, an inventor, a patent holder, specialist author and the editor of the first implantological specialist magazine "Orale Implantologie", is a whirl of plans and activities. In January 1970, along with six co-founders, he established Europe's oldest specialist society for dental implantology in Bremen/Germany: the DGZI e.V. (German Association of Dental Implantology). His international engagement and perseverance in gaining acknowledgement for dental implantology and implant prosthetics are unceasing. In Germany alone, he held and headed 25 educational implant congresses in the years between 1970 and 1993. In all of his endeavors, he is motivated by the fundamental principle that implant therapy will serve the purpose of a worldwide improvement of people's quality of life. His experience as a dental

specialist has taught him that often, implants have a longer functional life than the natural dentition. To this date, Prof. Dr Grafelmann advocates the addition of oral implantology to academic education, always also arguing for a close connection to the dental practice: "The best place to learn and teach is the dental chair in which we operate."

This philosophy of dedication, future- and patient-oriented science and practice-oriented education is the legacy which Prof. Dr Grafelmann will leave to dental and implantological experts worldwide, together with his extensive knowledge and experience. On 16 February 2017, he celebrated his 92nd birthday.



Obstructive Sleep Apnea causes

Complications in implant-borne prostheses

Researchers from OSI Araba University Hospital in Victoria, Spain, published a study that investigated how Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) affects implant-borne prostheses. The frequency with which a complication occurred and the type of complication were studied in 67 patients. Contradictory to

their initial hypothesis, the researchers found a high instance of complications related to OSA.

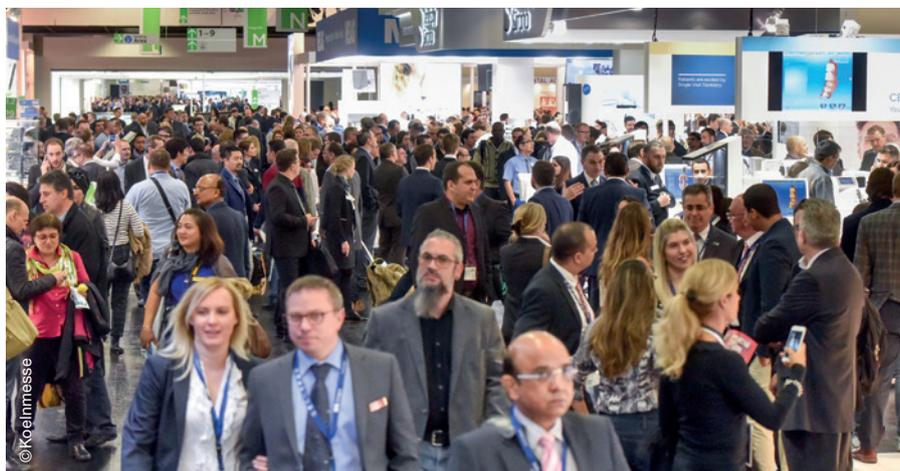
Of the 67 patients included in the study, the researchers found that 16 experienced complications; 13 of which had OSA. Among these 16 patients with complications, there were 22 prostheses with a total of 30 issues. The researchers found these complications consisted of porcelain fracture, fracture of the screw/implant, loosening of the screw, and decementation. The average time for a complication to occur was 73 months' post-implantation. During the study, the researchers also noted a strong relation between individuals who suffer from OSA and those who suffer from bruxism. Past studies revealed that those afflicted with bruxism had a higher instance (6/10) of complications with implant prostheses than those without bruxism (13/75). This shows that people suffering from OSA and/or bruxism have a more difficult time with successful prosthetic implantation.

This study shows that 81 per cent of patients with OSA experienced complications with their prostheses. Given that the success rate of implants is reported to be between 92 and 97 per cent, there is a strong correlation between OSA and prosthetic complications.



This year's IDS sets

New record in attendees



More than 155,000 people from 157 countries visited the International Dental Show (IDS) 2017, according to the latest figures released by organiser Koelnmesse. This is an increase of 12 per cent compared with IDS 2015. Furthermore, the number of international attendees rose by almost 20 per cent to around

60 per cent. There was also a slight increase in national visitors. In a visitor survey, about three-quarters of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with IDS 2017, as well as with achieving their targets for the exhibition. The majority of those surveyed (90 per cent) would recommend IDS to business partners, and

70 per cent said they plan to visit IDS in 2019. At the fair, 2,305 companies from 59 countries (compared with 2,182 companies from 56 countries in 2015) exhibited in an overall area of 163,000 m² (158,200 m² in 2015). These included 624 exhibitors and 20 additionally represented companies from Germany (636 and 19, respectively, in 2015), as well as 1,617 exhibitors and 44 additionally represented companies from abroad (1,480 and 44, respectively, in 2015). The proportion of foreign companies was 72 per cent (70 per cent in 2015). Of the more than 155,000 visitors from 157 countries (138,500 visitors from 151 countries in 2015), around 60 per cent (compared with 51 per cent in 2015) came from abroad. IDS 2017 focused on digital production and diagnostics, intelligent networking solutions for practices and laboratories, smart services for dentists and dental technicians, as well as the further improvement of patient care and thus oral health worldwide. The next IDS will take place from 12 to 16 March 2019.

Survey exposes truth about

Our oral health habits

FDI World Dental Federation is myth busting what people around the world believe to be good oral health practices, encouraging them to become better informed and take action. Oral health is integral to our general health and well-being; impacting every aspect of our lives. The results from a survey carried out in 12 countries, by YouGov on behalf of FDI, exposed a significant gap between what people believe to be good oral health practices, versus what they actually do. Eight of the countries reported that 50 per cent or more of the people surveyed think it is important to brush your teeth straight after every main meal. Brazil, Mexico, Egypt and Poland were the worst offenders of this incorrect oral health practice (84%, 81%, 62% and 60% respectively). FDI recommends waiting at least 30 minutes after eating to brush your teeth to avoid weakening tooth enamel.

The majority of countries surveyed incorrectly believe that rinsing the mouth out with water after brushing is important; Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, India and Canada were found to practice this myth the most (77%, 75%, 73%, 67% and 67% respectively). It is actually recommended not to rinse with water straight after brushing to allow maximum exposure to fluoride,

which will optimize the preventative effects. Nearly half the population surveyed in India, South Africa, Brazil and Poland (52%, 49%, 48% and 42% respectively), felt that drinking fruit juice rather than fizzy drinks was important for good oral health. Fruit juice however, can also be high in sugar which can cause tooth decay. FDI recommends keeping consumption of sugary drinks to a minimum as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

