



Fig. 1

# 47<sup>th</sup> DGZI International Annual Congress

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On 29 and 30 September 2017, the 47<sup>th</sup> DGZI International Annual Congress was held in Berlin, Germany. 60 speakers from eight countries had been invited to discuss the rather provocative question of "Does biology still matter?" taking a closer look at the controversial topic from all its facets. The scientific board was chaired by DGZI President Prof. Dr Herbert Deppe and DGZI Vice President Dr Roland Hille.

## Congress opening

The congress opened on Friday in presence of numerous associated professional societies in the area of dental implantology. Delegates from Japan, the Eastern Europe, North America and the Arabian region joined the event.

In their welcome speech, Prof. Dr Herbert Deppe and Dr Roland Hille referred to one of the main topics of the congress which was conventional vs digital workflow. They posed the question of whether the conventional workflow is still contemporary or has the digital workflow already taken over the lead.

However, there were still some problems to solve, as they concluded. Another important point of discussion was the multi-morbidity of patients with regards to extensive medication prescription. In this context, the scientific committee pointed out the importance of dentists' to consciously look at the oftentimes complex pathology of their patients. Considering this, they would be better able to estimate individual risks regarding planned surgeries.

Subsequently, Prof. Dr Stefan Wolfart and Dr Christian Mehl gave a closer insight into the dispute of conventional vs digital workflow. Using impressive images and well-documented case examples, they discussed advantages and disadvantages of both practices. Each speaker concluded in his lecture that dentists can feel at home in both worlds—depending on the availability of equipment and material, and their individual educational level. "What is significant is the improvement of the treatment quality," Prof. Dr Wolfart stated, and simultaneously advised his colleagues: "Don't let the industry fool you that you necessarily need to buy this or that!"

DGZI past President Dr Friedhelm Heinemann spoke about fixed restorations made from full-ceramics—tension-free and efficient. "There is a lot that works, however, you have to do it in the right way," with this initial statement Dr Heinemann had the auditorium on his side. Oftentimes, dentists have to decide between a tension-free cementation that may be fraught with biological difficulties (cementitis), and screwing that comprises aesthetic disadvantages and may cause tensions. He proposed a solution using both procedures: fabrication of the crown with a hole, cementing, and screwing.

Dr Victor Clavijo who had been travelling from Brazil to the German capital, divided his lecture into three parts: experiences, evidence, and reproducibility. In his lecture, he focused on the maxillary anterior teeth which are an aesthetically relevant zone. Thereby, he pointed out differences in the prosthetic treatment. His first take-home message was: "Keep the maxillary anterior teeth as long as possible!" If implants cannot be avoided any longer, he suggested to use diameter reduced implants preceded by a soft- and hard-tissue augmentation. His second take-home message was: "Always change an unfavourable initial situation to a favourable one, and only afterwards talk about implants!"

After the opening session, the congress participants had ample opportunities to visit different podiums; they could choose between the main podium, the international podium, and the corporate podium.

### Biology and medication

In the afternoon of the first congress day, one of the first lectures was presented by DGZI President Prof. Dr Deppe. He referred on benefits and limitations of dental implants in patients with systemic diseases. Thereby, he concentrated on cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and immunodeficiency diseases. Despite inconsistent guidelines and advices, Prof. Deppe concluded that patients with these diseases may be well treated with dental



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

implants given the respective disease is under control. The same applies to old patients in a good overall condition.

Prof. Dr Weischer perfectly rounded off the lecture of his previous speaker by emphasising the meaning of biology in implant treatment of patients having pre-existing diseases. In case of patients undergoing an antiresorptive therapy, the individual risk potential limits the decision of inserting dental implants—especially in long-term and intravenous administration. Another risk for implant treatment is caused by long-term and high administration of cortisone. Thus, a careful anamnesis, well-balanced indication, and pre-operative antibiosis is crucial for the implant

**Fig. 1:** View into the main podium of the 47<sup>th</sup> DGZI International Annual Congress.

**Fig. 2:** (from left) Congress President Dr Roland Hille, Dr Stefan Wolfart and DGZI President Prof. Dr Herbert Deppe.

**Fig. 3:** At the booth of the DGZI gold sponsor OT medical.





Fig. 4



Fig. 5

success, Prof. Dr Weischer concluded. Taking into account these factors, implants could be a therapeutic alternative even in tumour patients.

In the following, Dr Dr Frank Halling talked about relevant side effects and interactions of the 50 frequently prescribed medications in Germany. In his thoroughly researched presentation, he pointed out that an over 65-year-old patient averagely takes four different agents. In view of this fact, polypharmacy and polymorbidity are also a relevant issue and considerable challenge for dentists. Thus, dentists are obliged to consult the respective general physician or internist before they carry out a complex surgery.

After having heard a lot of interesting lectures, congress participants concluded the day with a special event. During the live show "Stars in Concert", DGZI guests enjoyed a memorable time from best seats, and meet a lot of stars, amongst them Elvis Presley, the Blues Brothers, and Elton John.

### Biological aspects in implantology

The second congress day was opened by a presentation of Prof. Dr Siegfried Heckmann. He introduced a study on immediate implants and immediate restoration in the aesthetically relevant zone. Thereby, he clearly stated: "One has to decide either for a consequent immediate implantation and restoration, or for a delayed implantation and restoration. Do not mix these procedures! Do not use mixed procedures!"

Subsequently, Prof. Dr Constantin von See addressed the question of how implants that are currently available, still make sense under a biological point of view. Following years of stagnation, a new variety in terms of implant design and form has been developed, as Prof. Dr von See stated. Thereby, a great importance is attached to the crown-implant ratio and implant stability. DGZI board member Prof. Dr Kai-Olaf Henkel followed this topic in a perfect manner by talking about the force flux at the implant that



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

**Fig. 4:** Members of the Japan delegation with Dr Rolf Vollmer.

**Fig. 5:** Dr Yoshie Minoru, Japanese board member, during his welcome speech.

**Fig. 6:** Members of the Georgian delegation with Dr Rainer Valentin.

**Fig. 7:** Prof. Dr. Mazen Tamimi and guest.

**Fig. 8:** Prof Dr Robert Sader, Dr Georg Bach und Prof. Dr Wilfried Wagner at the podiums discussion "DGZI controversy".

are crucial for implant success. He concluded that it has to be of highest priority to consider the surface, and pressure and tension forces.

As an expert in the field of ceramic implantology, Dr Michael Gahlert referred on biological aspects of ceramic dental implants. Ceramic implants are not merely a passing trend but a real alternative to titanium implants, he stated. Especially, with a view to biological aspects in dentistry. The following speaker Prof. Dr Max Heiland dealt with pre-implantological augmentation in the maxilla. Thereby, he focused on bone regeneration in the edentulous maxilla—based on options in the single-tooth replacement, and to avoid removable dentures. In his presentation, he specifically concentrated on the possibilities of 3-D diagnostic and 3-D support in such augmentation procedures.

Dr Daniel Thoma referred on biomaterials as alternative to autologous soft tissue implants. In his explanations he followed the credo: Biomaterials are worthwhile, and have been established as alternative to conventional procedures using autologous materials. Subsequently, Prof. Dr Thorsten Auschill focused on a both relevant and demanding topic under the headline "Update peri-implantitis therapy according to changed guidelines". After having thoroughly described important definitions and addressed nomenclatorial questions, he concentrated on the latest therapy options in the treatment of peri-implantitis.

## Different ways—DGZI controversy

Besides scientific lectures, the second day of the DGZI annual congress is traditionally dedicated to a controversial exchange and discussion. For this year's podiums discussion, the scientific board succeeded to win two German top-class experts in the area

of maxillofacial surgery: Prof. Dr Robert Sader and Prof. Dr Wilfried Wagner. The speakers discussed the question: "Are shorties the all-purpose weapon in implantology?" In their initial statement, both experts confessed that they as patients would agree to short implants, if the appropriate conditions were met.

During the debate it became evident that previous differences on the subject, which seemed in part irreconcilable, have ceased. Oral surgeons do not longer insist on bone blocks as the ultimate solution, and sceptics of augmentative procedures are more and more aware that their preferred procedures have their limits. Both experts agreed that today the following factors are crucial: a clear analysis of the individual patient conditions, a good pre-implantological diagnosis, a reliable command of the insertion technique used in each case, and, last but not least, implantological troubleshooting.

Closing the two-day event, participants, speakers and all those responsible looked back on a highly informative congress. In view of this successful event, those interested can look forward to 2018 and the 48<sup>th</sup> DGZI International Annual Congress which will be held on 28 and 29 September 2018 in Düsseldorf, Germany.

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