

Goodbye “Osseointegration”: Statement of the International Implant Foundation (Munich, Germany) and Strategic Implant® specialists from around the World

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ABSTRACT

The authors (from their own experience and based on scientific literature) state that the old method of osseointegration, which had served the profession of dental implantology is outdated and full of flaws. It does not meet the expectations of the patients and causes severe problems the longer dental implant remain in the oral cavity.

The Technology of the Strategic Implant® has overcome the major problems which are associated to conventional oral implantology and of the method of “osseointegration”.

Conventional oral implantology and the method of osseointegration is not the specialist standard any more today.

Keywords: Osseointegration, osseofixation, peri-implantitis, specialist standard, oral implantology

For decades oral implantology was guided by the term “osseointegration”. We are told that this term stemmed from the “Osseointegration team” around P.I. Branemark and Prof. T. Albrektsson, and it describes the peaceful co-existence between living bone if in contact or near titanium. Following this, industry took over this observation and a new oral implantology resulted. The industries activities for marketing the term “osseointegration” and most of what was done then actually never was scientifically connected to the work of the “osseointegration team”.

Its has to be mentioned here that from approximately 1956 onwards (i.e. decades before Mr. Branemark discovered the unique properties of bone near titanium bodies) oral implantology already had existed on a considerable scale and that since this time until the beginning of the medial propaganda for “osseointegration” implantologists worldwide had worked very successfully and even in immediate loading protocols.

After the implant industry entered the arena, each company tried to

“make a difference” through *their* miracle-like implant surfaces. Surface enlarging through sand blasting and later done in combination with etching or anodization technologies became the Holy Grail (and actually later the grave) of conventional oral implantology. Healing times were made popular, and the marketing focused on “the multi-piece screw implant”. Implants became expensive, healing times became necessary, and soon the term “Peri-Implantitis” was spreading through the population. Peri-implantitis was not known as long as only polished implants had been used.

Since the middle of the 1990ies dental implants were predominantly multi-piece designs, they automatically provided a large implant diameter, and their endosseous surfaces are rough. Thats it, end of the line.

It remained unnoticed in the field of oral implantology, that in traumatology and orthopedic surgery rough implant surfaces *were never used nor deemed an advantage*, although they could be in use there with much less risk, due to the fact that these implants are installed in sterile body compartments. The advantages which “rough-implant-surface-manufacturers” claimed were never recognized in the field of traumatology. This should make us think.

For those rough oral implant surfaces a high price had to be payed by the patients: not only became the devices more expensive due to the connected marketing, also bad long-term results were seen: since the beginning the century large congresses around the world deal with the topic named

“Peri-Implantitis”. They deal actually with the question how a completely superfluous problem can be made the “state of the art”, and how patients can be convinced to accept it and pay tribute with a lot of money and with their oral health to that Holy Grail. Albrektsson & team had revoked already in 2020 their theory of why and how osseointegration happened, but this remained widely unnoticed [1].

Large manufacturers (just as actually too many oral implant practitioners) refused to draw consequences out of the logical fact (a self-evident knowledge) that the **big implant diameters in combination with the rough surfaces are the cause of the problem**. Scientific results which proved exactly this were neglected and overseen in the vast body of useless and redundant (to a large extend falsified) scientific literature in our field.

Nowhere in other fields of medicine, the human body is operated towards the desired medical device. Always the device is chosen, which fits the individual patient, - nowhere, except in conventional oral implantology as we will show: Never a human heart is first increased in size to fit to an initially too large artificial heart-flap, just to mention an example. Heart flaps are chosen to fit the anatomy which had to be dealt with.

In oral implantology such cinderella-procedures were made fashionable: instead of applying oral implants which fit the jaw bone right away, “bone augmentation procedures” were invented and became “state of the art”. And: instead of using right away well-suited bone areas with high mineralization for implant anchorage, areas which are known to be prone to resorption were augmented, - e.g. the maxillary sinus. Bonelit® implants (a brand sold in the 1990ies), didn't fit the bone in most cases, but nobody was supposed to notice that. Unbelievable. Patients suffered, but they had no say in this game.

Bone augmentations can never be **never part of immediate loading protocols**, because the augmented area cannot be put into function right away and because the augmentation site is be infected through the inevitable opening between the implant and the mucosa. In immediate loading implantology bone is **rather removed than augmented** to create aesthetics [2,3], bone is never augmented in this technology. There is no need for this. The border between oral implantology and cranio-facial rehabilitation has been blurred [4-10]. All the forementioned publications reveal without mercy how useless and wrong many of the rules, assumptions and fears of conventional implantology are [11,12], and that bone augmentations solely done for the installation of a 2-stage implant is a mistaken concept. The idea that (only)

intricate implant surfaces (as advertised by the big implant manufacturers) allow early or immediate loading is a superstition, but it is not easy to erase this thinking from the brains of the “conventionals”.

The situation was not the same in all parts of the world: in remote corners of West-Germany and in France a fearless fraction of clear thinkers among implant practitioners refused already more than 20 years ago to follow the mainstream and they invented first the technology of lateral basal implants (e.g. Diskimplant® & BOI®) and later the Technology of the Strategic Implant®. The two types of devices do not look alike, but they have everything in common: basal implantology uses solely polished implant bodies, thin and polished mucosal penetration diameters, exclusively cortical anchorage (osseofixation) and immediate loading protocols. There is no need for “osseointegration” and healing times any more if highly mineralized bone areas are utilized for anchorage. The concept of the emerging profile and performing bone augmentations is definitely “out”. And all this provided for all of our cases the possibility of immediate functional loading.

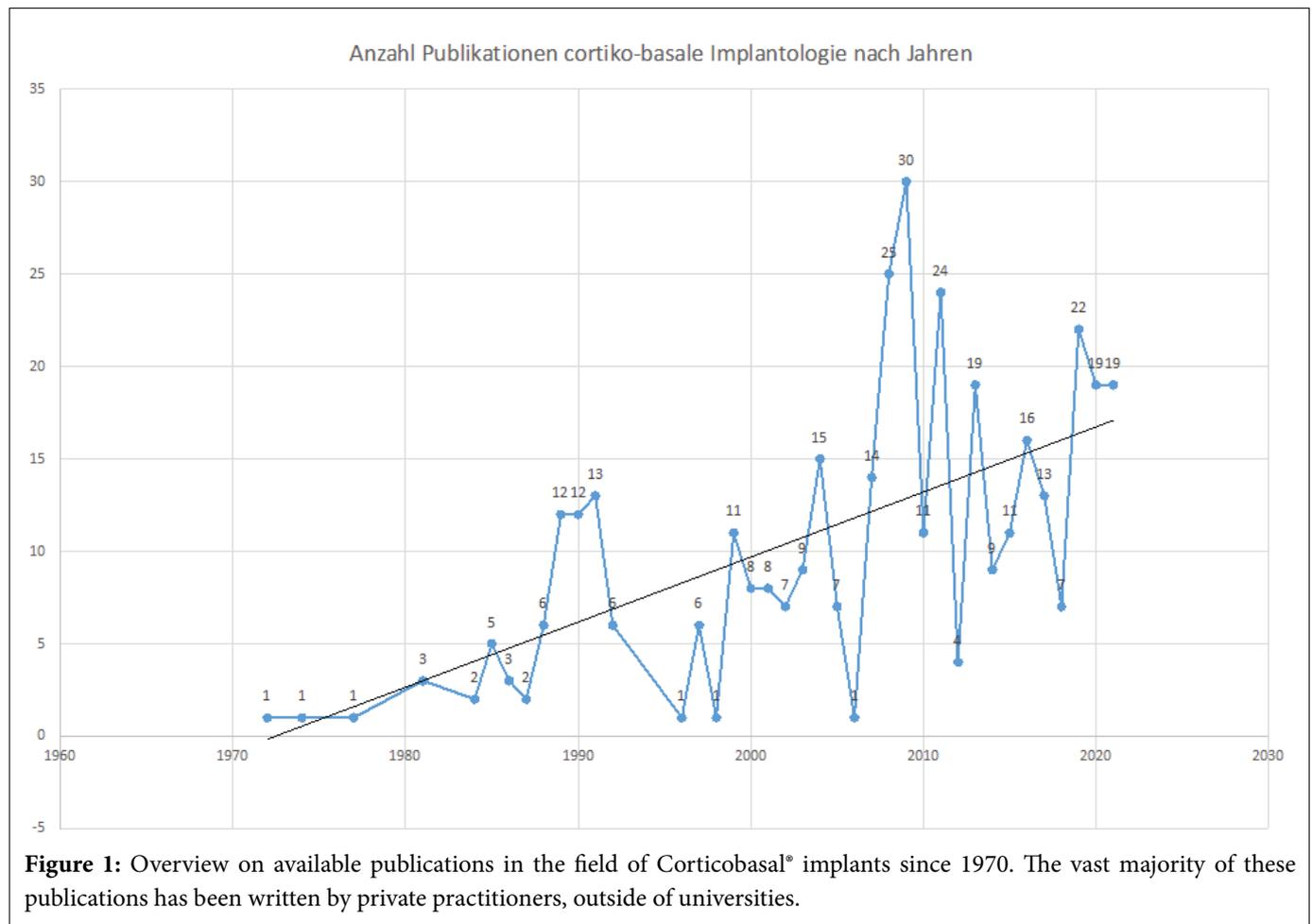
Over the years the fearless thinkers from central Europe made friends will think-alike implant practitioners around the world and since then this group has then come up with more than 380 international publications.

They have proven with undisputable statistics [13,14], that their concept works. Better than the mainstream concept, without the flaws which “osseointegrated” contains. While the “conventional implantologists” still perform bone augmentations and impose “healing times” to their customers, **the Thinkers** have started to catch the market. And neither this market nor the patients will ever run back to the old technology.

While the thinkers start their implant cases on Monday and finishing it on Wednesdays, the “conventionals” finish after 18 months.

The thinkers never do bone augmentations, the “conventionals” do it in the majority of the cases.

The Thinkers show proven success rates of well over 95% on long term [12], the “conventionals” can’t show anything better. Rather the opposite: if one would count those cases/implants



where the treatment of the patient did not come to success *because it started with a non-successful* bone augmentation, and if we would also count those implants which were never placed because the patient was send away untreated because there was “not enough bone”, we would see the openly the dramatic disaster which the “osseointegraters” cause. If we would apply the “Intent to Treat”-principle properly, then we would also count those cases and implants as a failure, which had not been placed because the bone augmentation was refused by the patient (for whatever reasons).

Plus: The Thinkers with their polished surfaces never create “Peri-Implantitis”. That’s a proven fact today [12,13,15,16].

And: If a conventional fails due to peri-implantitis it creates a much worse condition than if it had failed before osseointegration. This way uncountable patients have been seriously damaged regarding their oral health by the “osseointegraters” all around the world.

And: The Thinkers can show that they improve the Quality of Life with their therapy [17,18]. This was new in oral implantology, - so far patients mainly suffered.

Looking at today’s clinical reality, we have to accept that the concept of the Strategic Implant®, the Corticobasal® Implants and alikes have overcome all the shortcomings and problems of traditional implantology and of the concept of “osseointegration”. Bone augmentations and “healing times” are today not state of the art any more for standard cases in oral implantology, they are not the “specialist standard”.

This raises the question for how long the “conventionals” may continue to ignore the other treatment possibilites and fight against the winds of change instead of setting the sails to use them? For how long will the old method be **ethically** accepted? How can they justify “bone augmentation”? How to justify (the unnecessary) “healing times”? Soon the cumulative knowledge in the tribe of our patients will understand that **“Peri-Implantitis” happens only because the wrong implants were chosen.** What will the “conventionals” tell them then?

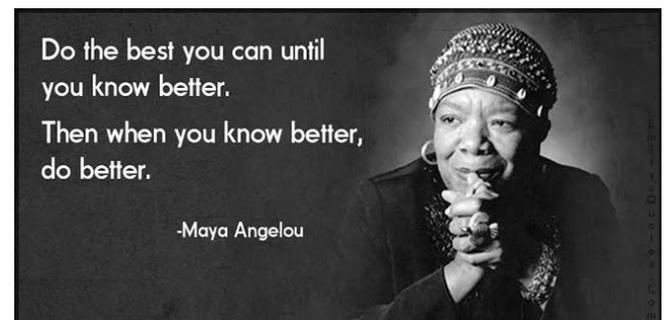
The method of “**osseofixation**”, as it has been used in the field of traumatology and (general) orthopedic surgery since the 1970ies, has been successfully transferred into the field of oral and craniofacial implantology. The Technology of the Strategic Implant® is ready for use for every single treatment provider. It is not only an alternative to the 2-stage implants, it is even a perfect alternative to repairing an aging dentition of our patients again and again. This technology frees the patients from the burdens of their own teeth.

Neither the methods “**osseointegration**” nor “**bone augmentations**” are known in the field of traumatology. Today they lose very fast their field of application in oral implantology.

Good old “osseointegration” steps off the stage of oral implantology, its clinical indications are today only very limited.

The “Specialist Standard” in oral implantology has changed [19].

Goodbye Osseointegration!



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