

Implant Complications in Private Practice

The first part of this research project has been a retrospective assay of implant complications in a range of Victorian dental practices. The study has been designed by a project team which has a broad range of experiences, including periodontists, prosthodontists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, experienced general practitioners who place and restore implants, as well as dentists who have recently completed the Graduate Diploma of Implant Dentistry and postgrad students studying at the University of Melbourne. The project meetings are chaired by the eviDent Chief investigators A/Prof Roy Judge and Dr Denise Bailey (University of Melbourne, Melbourne Dental School).

After ethics approval was gained from the University of Melbourne, two research assistants were trained and calibrated to record data from the 32 enrolled practices. These practices included general practitioners, prosthodontists, periodontists and oral and maxillofacial surgeons. Data collection has been completed with the details of more than 8,000 implants recorded. The information has included the dentist's experiences and training, patients medical issues, implant type, size and position as well as restorative strategies employed. This study has also recorded management strategies employed and their outcomes, along with any complications.

The defined end point for the retrospective study is to complete data analysis, allowing for an evidence-based set of treatment guidelines for clinical implant management to be drawn up and published. Alongside this private practice based research project has been a companion study, examining the types of complications and their management at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne.

Once evidence-based implant treatment guidelines have been formulated using our data, we plan a prospective study to evaluate the use of these guidelines in enrolled practices and to continually monitor the outcomes of implants placed and/or restored in these practices. This prospective study will also provide an ever-increasing pool of clinical implant data that will be used for enhancement of all aspects of dental implant care.

The project team is currently preparing papers and presentations about

- the patients' medical history and their association;
- implant prosthodontics; and,
- augmentation materials and techniques.

Knowledge of the health status of patients seeking implants is an important aspect of treatment planning and patient management. However, little is known about the health status of patients routinely presenting for implant treatment in Victorian private dental practices. The difficulty that many dentists face is that the evidence is based on narrow, well-controlled groups that do not resemble the typical patient.

Using data collected from this study, Dr Angelos Sourial will present health and demographic profiles of the patients most commonly presenting for implant treatment in private practice. This data also shows the types of restorations commonly prescribed. He will reveal the most commonly presenting patient profiles



Dr Angelos Sourial

Let Dr Sourial introduce you to Mr and Mrs Bloggs, your typical implant patients, at the ADAVB Convention on Saturday, 23 August.

Being familiar with these commonly presenting medical conditions and the implications that these bring along to daily practice will help you plan and manage implant treatments.

For further information about eviDent visit www.evident.net.au, email ask@evident.net.au or phone Meaghan Quinn on (03) 8825 4603.