IMPLANT MAINTENANCE CARE SOLUTION

Proper monitoring and maintenance are essential to ensure the durability and health of a dental implant. The long-term success of implants is fundamentally dependent upon both the patient's maintenance of effective home care and on the dental team's administration of professional prophylaxis procedures in the dental office.

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How the best perform







IMPLANT MAINTENANCE CARE PROGRAM

Proper monitoring and maintenance are essential to ensure the durability and health of a dental implant. Following the completion of the surgical and prosthetic procedures in implant therapy, it is imperative to inform the patient about how to carry out selfperformed infection control procedures.

The long-term success of implants is fundamentally dependent upon both the patient's maintenance of effective home care and on the dental team's administration of professional prophylaxis procedures in the dental office ^[10].

Professional infection control procedures are necessary to achieve long-term success of our implant treatments ^[6] and include the removal of hard and soft bacterial deposits on implant and suprastructure components with scalers.

Great care and caution should be practiced when cleaning the dental implant and the instruments to be used should ideally be capable of removing efficiently the bacterial deposits without altering the implant surface, the implant components and the surrounding tissues ^{[7], [12]}.







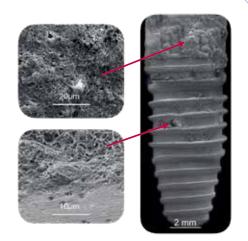
In this context, it is imperative to highlight that deep instrumentation, such as "subgingival debridement" that normally is performed around teeth, is not recommended in non-surgical treatment of peri-implant disease. The reason for this difference in strategy is related to the geometry of the implant device with its threaded part and other obstacles to access. The risk of causing injury to the inflamed tissues when performing "blind" instrumentation must be emphasized.

DEBRIDEMENT OF IMPLANT SURFACE

Hand curettes of different materials have been proposed as instruments for removing bacterial deposits of the supra- and subgingival peri-implant areas.

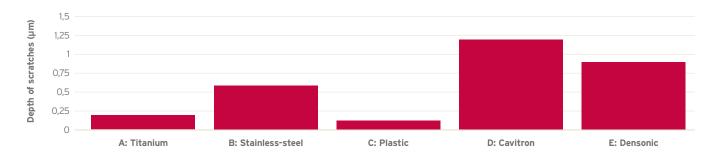
Among these instruments, plastic, carbon fiber, stainless-steel and titanium curettes are included.

Some studies has been performed to evaluate these different materials regarding to their cleaning efficacy and potential of alteration of the implant surface and prosthetic component, which could affect its biocompatibility, biofilm formation and therefore the implant longevity ^{[3], [4], [8]}.

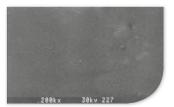


EFFECTS OF HAND INSTRUMENTS ON THE IMPLANT SURFACE

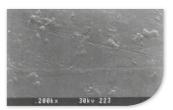
SEM investigation of instrumented titanium implant surface shows significantly less scratching caused by titanium curettes compared to other commonly used metal curettes and sonic insert ^[9].



Average work traces and substance removal (µm) on implants and abutments after treatment with different instruments.



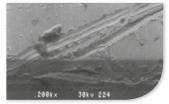
Control: untreated implant surface



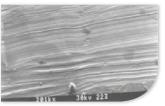
C: Implant surface treated with plastic curette



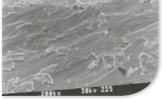
A: Implant surface treated with Titanium curette



D: Implant surface treated with Cavitron ultrasonic scaler with universal insert.



B: Implant surface treated with stainless-steel curette



E: Implant surface treated with Densonic sonic scaler with universal tip.

BENEFITS OF THE TITANIUM IMPLANT SCALERS

- Efficient removal of the bacterial deposits [11] [13].
- Gentle on titanium implant surfaces.
- Unlike plastic scalers, titanium scalers don't leave contaminants on the treated implant surface ^[8].



To avoid alteration or scratching of the implant's surface, the practitioner should use very lightpressure, approx imately 30 grams, during maintenance scaling procedures.





HU-FRIEDY TITANIUM IMPLANT SCALER & CURETTES

The new Hu-Friedy Titanium Implant Scalers are expertly designed and manufactured for implant maintenance, debridement, biofilm removal and can be used both supra- and sub-gingival.

- Made from the same titanium alloy as implants and abutments, the working ends are gentler on these delicate surfaces than stainless steel.
- Optimized sharpness with cutting edges that are finely honed and sharpened post anodization process
- Improved visual acuity and enhanced contrast to the abutment surfaces with Hu-Friedy's signature tealcolored anodized titanium
- Increased instrument value with the ability to be sharpened at any time.

The new line of Titanium Implant instruments proposes a titanium sickle scaler (204SD) and a range of titanium curettes (1/2 Langer, Mini Five 1/2, 11/12, 13/14) with different shape and profile in order to address all kind of clinical situation. The Titanium Implant Scalers kit includes:





WHEN SHOULD HU-FRIEDY TITANIUM IMPLANT SCALER AND CURETTES BE USED ?



DURING MAINTENANCE

During the maintenance visit, all surfaces that can accumulate deposits and harbor bacteria are cleaned, scaled and polished thoroughly. These surfaces include the pros thetic suprastructure, the prosthetic abutment-toimplant collar connection and some times implant body.

Attention and care are required from the clinician during instrumentation and cleaning of these surfaces in order to prevent any damage of the delicate peri-implant biological seal. Upon insertion of the instrument, the blade will be placed close against the abutment and then opened past the deposit. With a light pressure, a vertical, horizontal, semicircular or oblique stroke will then be apply to remove all hard and soft bacterial deposits. After removing bacterial plaque and calculus from the abutment or implant, the surface can be polished with rubber cups to prevent additional plaque accumulation ^[14].

DURING NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT OF PERI-IMPLANT MUCOSITIS AND INITIAL PERI-IMPLANTITIS

All subjects who present any signs of peri-implant disease should be thoroughly informed about the disorder and instructed on how to carry out selfperformed infection control.

Whether the disease is mucositis or peri-implantitis, the initial phase of therapy must always include professional infection control procedures. The main objective is to remove peri-implant biofilm and calculus with scalers or curettes, without altering the implant surface, with the goal of reestablishing a healthy periimplant mucosa^[5].







DURING SURGICAL TREATMENT OF PERI-IMPLANTITIS

The treatment of peri-implantitis requires often but not always surgery. The purpose of surgical therapy is to provide access for debridement and decontamination of the implant surface ^[1]^[2].

Whenever possible, the supraconstructions are removed to facilitate the accessibility around the diseased implants.

Following local anesthesia, full-thickness flaps are elevated on the buccal and lingual aspects of affected implants. Inflamed tissue is removed, and titanium-implant curettes are used to remove hard deposits on implants. The implant surfaces are then decontaminated with saline for 2 min. Osseous recontouring is performed when indicated, and flaps are adjusted and closed with single interrupted sutures ^[1].

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