



## Short dental implants and non-implant-related articles? Yes, we can!

This issue of the European Journal of Oral Implantology presents the first two published randomised clinical trials (RCTs) evaluating the efficacy of short implants (7 to 8 mm) as an alternative to bone augmentation procedures. While it is recognised that the follow-up periods in function are too short (4 to 12 months) to draw valid conclusions, these studies do provide preliminary indications that short implants may be simpler, cheaper, faster and use a safer procedure than more complex bone augmentation techniques for the placement of longer implants. If these preliminary results are validated by future trials with longer follow-ups, important clinical indications could be established and recommended in order to provide safer and more effective treatments for patients with suboptimal amounts of residual alveolar bone.

In this issue we also publish an RCT evaluating the efficacy of enamel matrix derivatives for the treatment of deep infrabony defects. You may wonder why we have included a trial that does not directly deal with dental implants, which remains the main focus of EJOI. This is a legitimate question and I will attempt to provide a reasonable explanation. The editors felt that, when the opportunity arises, we should publish relevant clinical studies dealing with those aspects of

clinical dentistry aimed at saving compromised teeth, or that present important clinical implications for patients rehabilitated with dental implants. Today, implants are an irreplaceable tool for rehabilitating patients with a missing or compromised dentition, but they do not necessarily represent the 'best' option for saving a compromised dentition. We feel that our readers could benefit by reading some non-implant-related clinical articles, as the readers of periodontal, prosthetic and endodontic journals benefit when reading about dental implants in their speciality journals. Therefore, authors submitting clinically relevant manuscripts have another option for publishing their findings in a journal targeting an audience with a special interest in implant dentistry. The same high standards of review will apply: we shall only accept those articles providing sound and balanced clinical information, even if they appear to oppose the accepted dogmas of dentistry.

Last, but not least, we have filed our application to be listed on Medline. In the case of a positive outcome, the articles published in EJOI will be available to a much larger audience ... fingers crossed!

Marco Esposito  
Editor-in-Chief