

Once every 5 years, the International Team for Implantology (ITI) organizes a consensus conference to review the dental literature on a topical area in Implantology. In 2013, the Fifth ITI Consensus Conference was held in Bern, Switzerland, April 23–25. In the preceding year, the organizing committee identified five main topics for review. The working group leaders for each principal topic, as well as the authors commissioned to prepare review papers, met in Zürich in May 2012 for a workshop conducted by Prof Ian Needleman, Unit of Periodontology and International Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare, UCL Eastman Dental Institute, London. The aim of this workshop was to streamline and standardize the process of undertaking systematic reviews of the literature based on comprehensive search strategies.

The following is a summary of the materials and methods employed by the authors in preparing the systematic reviews. Details of the search strategies are tabulated within each review paper.

Focus question. Framing of the research question was undertaken using the PICO strategy.^{1,2} Based on the four PICO elements (Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome), the focus question was constructed by the authors and subsequently accepted and confirmed by the authors within each working group.

Search strategy. A systematic and comprehensive search of the literature was conducted. Electronic databases were searched using key terms. Relevant journals were hand searched to identify additional articles. Additionally, the bibliographies of selected papers and published review articles on the topic were also scanned for relevant publications. The details of the key words used for electronic searches are provided in each paper.

Selection criteria. All levels of evidence except for expert opinion were considered in order to provide a comprehensive search of the literature. Screening of the records was performed independently by the authors of each review paper. Any disagreement between the reviewers was resolved by discussion.

Quality assessment. A quality assessment of each included publication was undertaken. For randomized controlled trials and controlled clinical trials, the Cochrane Collaboration's tool for assessing risk of bias was utilized.³ Nonrandomized controlled studies were assessed for quality using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale for Observational Studies.⁴

Results and conclusions. From the included studies, the relevant data were extracted and tabulated. Meta-analyses were performed when relevant. The results were then presented and conclusions drawn.

Peer review. Prior to the consensus conference, the manuscripts were submitted to *The International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants* for peer review. Cor-

rections, amendments, and revisions were then completed. Once accepted for publication by the editor of the journal, the review papers provided the basis for the formulation of consensus statements and treatment recommendations within each working group.

The five topics and groups leaders were as follows:

Group 1: Contemporary Surgical and Radiographic Techniques in Implant Dentistry

Group Leader: Michael M. Bornstein

Group 2: Restorative Materials and Techniques for Implant Dentistry

Group Leader: Daniel Wismeijer

Group 3: Optimizing Esthetic Outcomes in Implant Dentistry

Group Leader: Dean Morton

Group 4: Implant Loading Protocols

Group Leader: German O. Gallucci

Group 5: Prevention and Management of Biologic and Technical Implant Complications

Group Leader: Lisa J. A. Heitz-Mayfield

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of the ITI, we wish to thank all the group leaders and authors who worked tirelessly to prepare the manuscripts for the Consensus Conference. We thank Prof Ian Needleman for conducting the preconference workshop, which was of great assistance in streamlining the preparation of the review papers. To the participants of the working groups, we extend our gratitude for the energy and enthusiasm in the discussions that underpinned the success of the conference. And finally, we wish to recognize the Events Team and staff members of the ITI Headquarters for their support. We greatly appreciate their effort and dedication.

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ITI Immediate Past President

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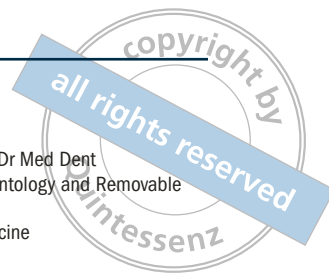
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