



This supplement to *The International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants* presents the proceedings of the Fourth ITI Consensus Conference, which took place in August 2008 in Stuttgart, Germany. The International Team for Implantology (ITI) is an independent academic association that unites professionals around the world from every area of implant dentistry and related tissue regeneration field. ITI fellows and members, who currently number more than 6,000 in total, regularly share their knowledge and expertise from research and clinical practice at meetings, courses, and congresses with the objective of continuously improving treatment methods and outcomes to the benefit of their patients.

The ITI organizes consensus conferences once every 5 years to discuss and deliberate on the most relevant and topical issues in clinical implant dentistry. The organizing committee, led by the chairman of the ITI Education Committee, invited four group leaders to oversee the task of preparing review papers for discussion at the consensus conference. A team of 15 reviewers and 29 co-reviewers worked tirelessly over a 12-month period to evaluate the current literature and to identify the evidence or lack thereof for a wide range of clinically based topics. At the consensus conference, 15 to 20 clinicians and researchers per group were invited from around the world to participate in the discussions. The four topics and group leaders were as follows:

Group 1: Risk Factors for Implant Therapy

Group Leader: David L. Cochran

Group 2: Emerging Techniques and Technologies in Implant Dentistry

Group Leader: Christoph H. F. Hammerle

Group 3: Implant Loading Protocols

Group Leader: Hans-Peter Weber

Group 4: Surgical Techniques in Implant Therapy

Group Leader: Stephen T. Chen

A total of 15 review papers were presented for discussion at the consensus conference. Each group was given the task of reviewing and agreeing on the content and conclusions of the review papers, and making recommendations in relation to treatment protocols. These deliberations formed the basis for consensus statements and clinical recommendations for each of the topics under consideration. The consensus statements and recommendations were presented at plenary sessions attended by all participants. These statements were discussed extensively and amendments made where required until they were accepted by all conference participants.

The ITI is pleased to be able to present the proceedings of the Fourth ITI Consensus Conference in this special supplement, which should serve to provide clinicians with current and evidence-based information to assist with diagnosis, treatment planning, and management of patients undergoing dental implant therapy. On behalf of the ITI, we wish to thank all the group leaders, reviewers, co-reviewers, and participants who contributed to the success of the consensus conference.

Dieter Weingart
ITI President

Stephen T. Chen
Chairman, ITI Education Committee

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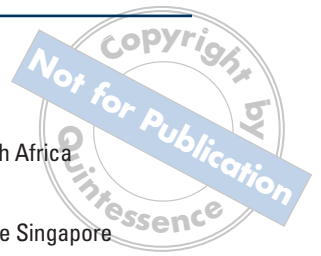
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