

## Implant Dentistry and Esthetics



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Throughout the dental literature, a large number of articles on implant dentistry and esthetics have recently been submitted and published, and this is reflected in the current issue of the *European Journal of Esthetic Dentistry*. But what exactly is the link between implant dentistry and esthetics? Many publications bear the term “esthetics” in their titles without providing a more specific definition of the term in the article itself. It seems that implant-supported restorations in the visible anterior region per se are connected with the concept of esthetics; further, such articles often promise readers enhanced esthetic outcomes by following their procedures.

Creating an esthetic dental restoration using implants is a major challenge for the clinician and dental team.<sup>1</sup> Often, the expectations and the results are judged differently by the patient and the clinician.<sup>2</sup> In 2005, Meijer et al<sup>3</sup> published an index for the evaluation of the esthetic outcome of

implant-supported single-tooth restorations. In the same year, Fürhauser et al<sup>4</sup> introduced a “pink esthetic score” for the evaluation of soft tissues. Such guidelines are useful, but they can merely complement—and never replace—communication between the dentist, patient, and dental technician.

This issue of the *EJED* contains articles that deal with the practical implementation and complexity of implant-supported restorations. I hope that the papers in this issue are not only informative, but also motivating! Motivation is the basis of clinical success and of working to the highest possible standards.

## References

1. Chang M, Wennström JL, Odman P, Andersson B. Implant supported single-tooth replacements compared to contralateral natural teeth. Crown and soft tissue dimensions. *Clin Oral Implants Res* 1999;10:185–194.



2. Chang M, Wennström JL, Odman P, Andersson B. Esthetic outcome of implant-supported single-tooth replacements assessed by the patient and by prosthodontists. *Int J Prosthodont* 1999;12:335–341.
3. Meijer HJ, Stellingsma K, Meijndert L, Raghoobar GM. A new index for rating aesthetics of implant-supported single crowns and adjacent soft tissues—The Implant Crown Aesthetic Index. *Clin Oral Implants Res* 2005;16:645–659.
4. Fürhauser R, Florescu D, Benesch T, Haas R, Mailath G, Watzek G. Evaluation of soft tissue around single-tooth implant crowns: The pink esthetic score. *Clin Oral Implants Res* 2005;16:639–644.

### Editor's note on terminology

To all prospective authors: the *European Journal of Esthetic Dentistry* adheres to the terminology put forth by the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms, edition 8. Authors are encouraged to conform their papers to these guidelines prior to submission. The glossary can be found in

the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* 2005; 94:10–92, and is available free of charge on the publisher's website:

<http://journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/ympr/article/PIIS0022391305001757/fulltext>.