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Osseointegration. On continuing synergies in surgery, prosthodontics and biomaterials (2008)

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Per-Ingvar Brånemark introduced the concept of osseointegrated dental implants. As a result, long-term clinical outcomes from surgical and prosthodontic protocols ushered in a new era of dental treatment for partial and completely edentulous patients. Subsequent routine dental use of osseointegration resulted from a long voyage by the synergistic efforts of many clinical scientists. The original mandate for writing this book was to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the educational introduction of the osseointegration concept. Some of the 20 writers in this book were involved at the earliest stage, while others joined at a later time.

The book is divided into 14 chapters, starting with a look back and treatment outcomes. Chapter 5 deals with materials, design, and surfaces, which have long since been regarded as important determinants of successful treatment. The conclusion is that the majority of currently used oral implants rely on a combination of pure titanium material, threaded design, and moderately rough surfaces. Chapters 6, 7, and 9 discuss diagnostic imaging (cephalometric radiography may even be of value!), surgical (including bone grafting), and prosthodontic considerations. Partial and total edentulism are focused on, while missing single teeth are only briefly referred to. In Chapter 8, however, single implants are discussed in connection with soft tissue aesthetic considerations. Valuable

aspects for the orthodontist are considered, e.g. width of space and management of the papillae. Furthermore, early loading of single tooth replacements are presented in Chapter 10. Important information on osseointegration failure is given in Chapter 11, e.g. infection, adverse load, and compromised healing/adaptation. Chapters 12 and 13 discuss standards of care and future directions (technology, patient-centred care). The last Chapter (14) is written by Zarb with the title 'From rear-view vistas to current landscapes'. I will only quote one of his thoughtful statements 'Regrettably implant treatment is often marketed as offering a unique aesthetic dimension to achieve best results. This may be misleading because the role of implant treatment is not a guarantee of an aesthetic solution but a useful adjunctive one'. Finally, he expresses concerns about the alarming commercialization of the dental implant field, as many implant systems lack any form of research, particularly relating to long-term treatment outcomes.

These 180 pages are an overview of osseointegration from its start to current times and even a glimpse into the future. The book is richly illustrated in colour and easy to read. It can be recommended to orthodontists who, in a multidisciplinary team of specialists, treat adult patients.

Birgit Thilander

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