PATIENTS OPINION AND QUALITY OF SINGLE CROWNS ON BRANEMARK IMPLANTS BY DENTISTS INEXPERIENCED WITH IMPLANT DENTISTRY.


In this retrospective study patients' opinion and quality of single crowns on Branemark implants were investigated. Patients were referred to the periodontal clinic for implant and abutment installation. Prosthetic rehabilitation was performed by referring dentists after taking part in a postgraduate course including hands-on training. 78 patients were sent questionnaires focusing on eating comfort, esthetics, phonetics and satisfaction 2 to 66 months after treatment completion. A six-point ordinal scale was used. 51 patients returned the questionnaire; 40 were willing to participate in a clinical examination, in which the quality of 43 single implant crowns were evaluated by an independent examiner. The guidelines for assessment of quality and professional performance (Californian Dental Association, 1977) were used for evaluation of design, fit, esthetics and overall impression. Damage, abrasion, unacceptable bone loss or implant mobility were checked for. A four-point scale was used for assessment of oral hygiene level, presence of calculus and bleeding. Eating comfort, esthetics, phonetics and satisfaction scored extremely positive/very positive in respectively 91%, 91%, 100%, 95%. Only 1 patient scored extremely negative for esthetics. Nevertheless 25% of the patients would not undergo the same treatment again, yet 100% would recommend it to others. 40% of the crowns scored perfect and 50% scored acceptable; 2 out of 42 were damaged. Plaque, calculus and bleeding scores were rated unacceptable in 15%, 20% and 5% respectively but without effect on bone loss or implant stability.

It is concluded that restorations on single implants, by previously inexperienced dentists, can be of adequate quality to satisfy the patients needs and demands.