

Guest Editorial

Imperative Yet Ignored



With an enormous increase in the number of dental surgeons offering implants for the rehabilitation of partially and completely edentulous patients, a corresponding escalation in the number of patients opting for implants has been observed. However, the most important facet of implant dentistry has so far been relatively neglected. Successful accomplishment of implant treatment does not merely depend upon its efficacious placement but on its healthy longevity and its tangible functioning like natural teeth, which quintessentially is reliant on its maintenance. Both the dentist as well as the patient plays an indispensable role in implant care. It is the responsibility of the dentist to formulate and follow a comprehensive implant maintenance protocol and to educate and motivate the patients for efficient aftercare of implants. The implant rehabilitated patients should be recalled every three to six months in the initial phase; yet, once the stability of implant and peri-implant conditions has been established the recall visits can be perceptively re-scheduled every six months or annually. The dental clinician should also be able to adjudge any signs of peri-implant infection at these recall visits and initiate appropriate action, so that any untoward condition can be reverted back to health before it worsens.

Therefore, as dentist we should be competent not only in the precise treatment planning, placement and loading of implants but also in their upkeep directly via professional implant care and indirectly by training patients to serve as co-therapist in the implant maintenance regimen, which, though imperative, yet, has been ignored.

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