

Current Concepts for the Treatment of Peri-implant Disease

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Peri-implant diseases are defined as bacterial plaque-induced inflammatory conditions affecting implant-surrounding tissues and are classified as peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis. Peri-implant mucositis is characterized by an inflammatory lesion that resides in the soft tissue compartment, whereas at peri-implantitis sites the lesions also feature progressive loss of implant-supporting bone. Inflammation resolution and disease progression arrestment are the main therapeutic endpoints of the treatment of peri-implant diseases. The present position paper displays the current evidence and clinical recommendations of the European Association for Osseointegration for the treatment of peri-implant diseases. Mechanical biofilm removal along with the reinforcement of patient-administered oral hygiene is considered the standard treatment for managing peri-implant mucositis. It is recommended to assess the outcomes of peri-implant mucositis treatment 2 to 3 months after therapy, and repeated intervention should be considered in the absence of treatment success. Peri-implantitis treatment should follow a stepwise treatment approach, starting with nonsurgical treatment followed by surgical intervention, if that is not sufficient. Surgical peri-implantitis therapies include nonreconstructive, reconstructive, and combined treatment modalities. Implantoplasty may be advocated for the treatment of supracrestal peri-implant defects, whereas reconstructive therapy is indicated at peri-implantitis sites featuring intraosseous defects with a depth ≥ 3 mm. Adjunctive reconstructive measures may be beneficial in enhancing radiographic defect fill and maintaining postoperative soft tissue levels, which may have a great impact in esthetic cases. The adjunctive use of systemic antibiotics during surgical therapy does not seem to improve the clinical outcomes. Regular supportive peri-implant therapy with biofilm removal should be an integral part of the treatment protocol for peri-implant diseases. In the presence of advanced bone loss around implants that do not play a strategic role in masticatory function, implant removal may be considered immediately. *Int J Prosthodont* 2024;37:124–134. doi: 10.11607/ijp.8750

During the 2017 World Workshop on the Classification of Periodontal Diseases and Conditions, peri-implant diseases were defined as inflammatory lesions affecting the tissues surrounding functioning dental implants and were further classified as peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis.¹ Peri-implant mucositis is an initial stage of the disease that is restricted in the soft tissue compartment. This stage clinically features bleeding on probing (BOP) or suppuration (Sup) with or without increased peri-implant probing depth (PD) compared to previous examinations and also the absence of bone loss beyond the crestal-bone-level changes resulting from the initial bone remodeling.^{2,3} If untreated, peri-implant mucositis may convert into peri-implantitis lesions, which are mainly characterized by the loss of supporting bone.⁴ The progression of peri-implantitis lesions is characterized by a nonlinear, accelerating pattern that in the absence of therapy may ultimately lead to implant loss.⁵ Recent cross-sectional studies have revealed the high prevalence of peri-implant diseases, highlighting their common clinical appraisal in daily clinical practice.^{6–8}

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Although peri-implant diseases are initially caused by a bacterial challenge, numerous factors such as history of chronic periodontitis, poor plaque control skills, absence of regular maintenance care after implant placement, and prosthesis overcontouring impeding access to oral hygiene procedures were reported to increase the risk of developing peri-implant diseases.^{2,3,9,10} Furthermore, there is evidence linking peri-implantitis to other factors such as submucosal cement remnants, improper implant positioning, and lack of keratinized mucosa.^{3,11}

The endpoint of peri-implant mucositis therapy is resolution of peri-implant mucosal inflammation, which is determined by the absence of ≤ 1 site with BOP.¹² Nonsurgical therapeutic approaches in conjunction with oral hygiene reinforcement were shown to be effective in reducing signs of inflammation, but complete resolution could not always be achieved.^{2,13} In addition to the resolution of inflammation at peri-implantitis sites, the treatment also seeks to arrest further marginal bone loss.¹⁴ In contrast to peri-implant mucositis, various nonsurgical peri-implantitis therapeutic measures demonstrated limited predictability in reliably implementing the aforementioned outcomes, indicating the need for surgical interventions in most cases.¹⁵

The aim of this position paper is to provide an update on the concepts for the treatment of peri-implant disease based on the currently available evidence.

DIAGNOSIS OF PERI-IMPLANT DISEASES

Following implant-supported restoration placement, all patients should be enrolled into regular maintenance therapy to monitor peri-implant tissue health.¹² The maintenance program should include repeated probing of peri-implant tissues to identify clinical signs of inflammation and interventions for primary prevention of peri-implant disease, such as professional supra- and submarginal plaque biofilm removal and oral hygiene reinforcement.¹² A recall interval of 6 months may be considered, but the frequency of maintenance appointments should be tailored to every patient according to their risk profile.¹⁶

Based on the recent clinical recommendations, the diagnosis of peri-implant diseases should be based on the following parameters.^{1,12,17} (a) Peri-implant mucositis: presence of ≥ 1 BOP spot or presence of a line of bleeding or profuse BOP at any location or Sup on gentle probing in the absence of bone loss beyond crestal-bone-level changes resulting from initial bone remodeling. (b) Peri-implantitis: presence of BOP/Sup upon gentle probing, increased PD values compared to previous examination, and presence of bone loss beyond crestal-bone-level changes resulting from initial bone remodeling.

In the absence of previous examination or baseline data, the diagnosis of peri-implantitis requires a combination of the following criteria:

- Presence of BOP or Sup on gentle probing
- PD values ≥ 6 mm
- Bone levels ≥ 3 mm apical to the most coronal portion of the intraosseous part of the implant

NONSURGICAL TREATMENT OF PERI-IMPLANT MUCOSITIS

Based on evidence derived from experimental clinical studies, peri-implant mucositis is a treatable condition and can be resolved by implementing meticulous control of the peri-implant biofilm.^{18–20} However, if left undiagnosed or untreated, peri-implant mucositis may progress to peri-implantitis. Therefore, peri-implant mucositis is considered a precursor for peri-implantitis.⁴ Conversion of peri-implant mucositis to peri-implantitis was clinically evaluated in one retrospective observational study with 80 patients initially diagnosed with peri-implant mucositis.²¹ Over 5 years, 43% of the patients not adhering to the preventive maintenance therapy (nonmaintenance group) were diagnosed with peri-implantitis; whereas, in the group of patients following the preventive maintenance, the incidence of peri-implantitis was considerably lower (maintenance group; 18% of the patients). Clinical parameters (eg, BOP, PD, and the presence of periodontitis) were associated with a higher risk of developing peri-implantitis.²¹

Given that peri-implant mucositis precedes peri-implantitis, the treatment of peri-implant mucositis lesions is considered a primary preventive intervention for peri-implantitis.⁴ The aim of peri-implant mucositis therapy is the resolution of peri-implant mucosal inflammation clinically defined as ≤ 1 point of BOP and absence of Sup.¹² Conventional nonsurgical mechanical therapy in conjunction with oral hygiene reinforcement is the standard treatment for peri-implant mucositis^{2,13} (Fig 1). This treatment results in an average of 0.5 to 1.0 mm PD reduction and 15% to 40% decrease in BOP values.¹³ To increase the efficacy of mechanical subgingival instrumentation, numerous alternative and adjunctive measures have been suggested to facilitate the resolution of peri-implant mucosal inflammation. In particular, as documented in numerous controlled clinical trials, the use of alternative mechanical and physical measures for subgingival-biofilm removal—including air polishing with glycine powder (Fig 2), chitosan brushes, ultrasonic devices and CO₂ lasers—provided no beneficial effects in terms of BOP or PD reduction over the 3- to 12-month period compared to subgingival mechanical debridement alone.^{22–26} Likewise, similar treatment outcomes, depicted by comparable BOP and PD changes, could be obtained at peri-implant mucositis sites treated with adjunctive local applications of various local antiseptics—including chlorhexidine gel (CHX 0.12%), a full-mouth disinfection concept using



Fig 1 Conventional peri-implantitis treatment using titanium curettes for subgingival debridement.



Fig 2 Air polishing with glycine powder as an alternative measure for nonsurgical peri-implantitis treatment.

CHX gel and mouth rinse, or applications of sodium hypochlorite—and those only treated with mechanical debridement.^{27–30}

Adjunctive prescription of probiotics for peri-implant mucositis treatment have been tested in two RCTs, one of which pointed to higher BOP reduction 3 months after the use of probiotics for 30 days, whereas another RCT after 4 to 5 months failed to detect any benefit of probiotics administered for 15 days.^{31,32} As reported in two RCTs, the adjunctive administration of systemic antibiotics (azithromycin) did not have any beneficial effect on the changes in BOP and PD values over the follow-up period of 3 to 6 months, thus not supporting the rationale for prescription of systemic antibiotics for peri-implant mucositis treatment.^{33,34} Furthermore, the adjunctive use of home care mouth rinse has been assessed in 3 RCTs, one of which suggested higher BOP

reduction in the patients adjunctively using oral irrigation with 0.06% CHX mouth rinse.^{35–37}

Although peri-implant mucositis is considered a reversible condition, irrespective of the therapeutic approach, complete disease resolution cannot be achieved in all cases. It is recommended that the outcomes of peri-implant mucositis treatment be assessed after 2 to 3 months, and in the presence of ≥ 2 BOP sites, ≥ 1 sites with profuse BOP, or presence of Sup, a repeated intervention should be considered.¹²

NONSURGICAL TREATMENT OF PERI-IMPLANTITIS

Peri-implantitis treatment should follow a stepwise treatment approach, starting with nonsurgical treatment and following with surgical intervention if it's not sufficient.¹²



The purpose of nonsurgical peri-implantitis therapy is to control peri-implant biofilm and resolve inflammation.¹² Nonsurgical treatment by mechanical submarginal debridement alone usually provides clinical improvements in reduced bleeding tendency (20% to 50%) and, in some cases, PD reduction (≤ 1 mm).¹³ To improve the outcomes of nonsurgical peri-implantitis therapy, numerous studies have assessed the efficacy of various alternative and adjunctive measures for subgingival-biofilm removal.

Based on previous RCTs' findings, within the 6- to 12-month period, alternative measures used for the submarginal instrumentation, (eg, Er:YAG and Er,Cr:YSGG lasers and air polishing with glycine powder) compared to mechanical debridement with curettes, lead to significant improvements in BOP reduction; whereas, similar outcomes were obtained in terms of the PD changes.^{38–41} Alternative use of ultrasonic devices or adjunctive use of a diode laser failed to show any benefit in terms of BOP or PD changes; whereas, after 6 months, the adjunctive use of antimicrobial photodynamic therapy (aPDT) was associated with greater improvement in PD and bleeding (sulcus bleeding index) values.^{42–44}

Previous clinical studies with a follow-up period ranging from 6 to 12 months investigated the efficacy of local antimicrobials used along with nonsurgical mechanical debridement at peri-implantitis sites, including application of local antibiotics (single or repeated application of minocycline microspheres), CHX 1.0% gel (single or repeated), repeated applications of CHX-containing chips, or single subgingival application of desiccant material.^{45–50} A greater decrease in BOP values could be achieved following the repeated applications of local antibiotics,⁴⁶ and higher improvements in PD values were obtained at peri-implantitis sites additionally treated with repeated application of CHX chips or single application of local antibiotics or desiccant material.^{49,50}

The efficacy of the administration of systemic antibiotics in conjunction with mechanical nonsurgical peri-implantitis therapy has been investigated in four RCTs. Three of them indicated the benefits of systemic antibiotics (ie, a combination of metronidazole and amoxicillin 500 mg, metronidazole, or azithromycin 500 mg 3 days before treatment) that were observed 12 months after treatment in terms of higher reductions in BOP and PD values.^{50–53} On the other hand, one RTC denied the advantages of systems antibiotics (amoxicillin and metronidazole) by reporting on similar clinical outcomes (ie, BOP and PD changes) yielded 3 months after the treatment in the test and control groups.⁵⁴ Despite the potential added effect of systemic antibiotics—particularly at initially deep sites (PD > 6 mm), considering their benefits vs harm, systemic antibiotics should not be routinely

prescribed as an adjunctive measure for nonsurgical peri-implantitis therapy.⁵⁵

According to recent recommendations for nonsurgical supra- and submarginal instrumentation in patients with peri-implantitis, curettes or sonic or ultrasonic devices may be used.¹² The current clinical data does not support the beneficial use of alternative or adjunctive measures, including lasers, air polishing, local antimicrobials or desiccant antiseptics, or local and systemic antibiotics for the nonsurgical treatment of peri-implantitis.¹²

It is recommended to assess the outcomes of nonsurgical peri-implantitis treatment after 6 to 12 weeks.¹² The end point of nonsurgical peri-implantitis should be residual PD ≤ 5 mm with no BOP at more than one point and no Sup.¹² If the end points of the nonsurgical therapy have not been achieved, surgical intervention should be considered.

Although previous consensus conferences suggested nonsurgical treatment as an initial therapeutic step prior to the surgical intervention, one recent RCT failed to identify any clinical benefits of the submarginal instrumentation performed 6 weeks before the surgical treatment of peri-implantitis.⁵⁶ The latter findings call for more and larger clinical trials to justify the need of a nonsurgical treatment prior to surgical intervention.

SURGICAL TREATMENT OF PERI-IMPLANTITIS

Surgical peri-implantitis treatment approaches can be categorized into three modalities: nonreconstructive (open flap debridement or pocket elimination procedures), reconstructive therapy, and a combined surgical approach (ie, implantoplasty and reconstructive therapy).⁵⁷

Nonreconstructive Therapy

Nonreconstructive surgical approaches include the open flap debridement and pocket elimination procedures (ie, resective therapy).⁵⁸ Open flap debridement is a basic surgical treatment modality that includes the repositioning of the soft tissue flaps upon the decontamination of the implant surface at the presurgical level.^{59,60} Surgical pocket elimination procedures involve the elimination or reduction of pathologic peri-implant pockets by means of apical positioning of the soft tissue flap with or without osseous recontouring.^{61,62}

To resolve peri-implant tissue inflammation, decontamination of the implant surface is a crucial step of the surgical treatment protocol.⁵⁷ Previous clinical studies assessed the efficacy of various implant surface decontamination approaches along with the surgical nonreconstructive peri-implantitis treatment. Based on the results of the RCTs with a follow-up period ranging from 6 months to 3 years, use of aPDT, diode laser, air polishing with erythritol powder, or local irrigation

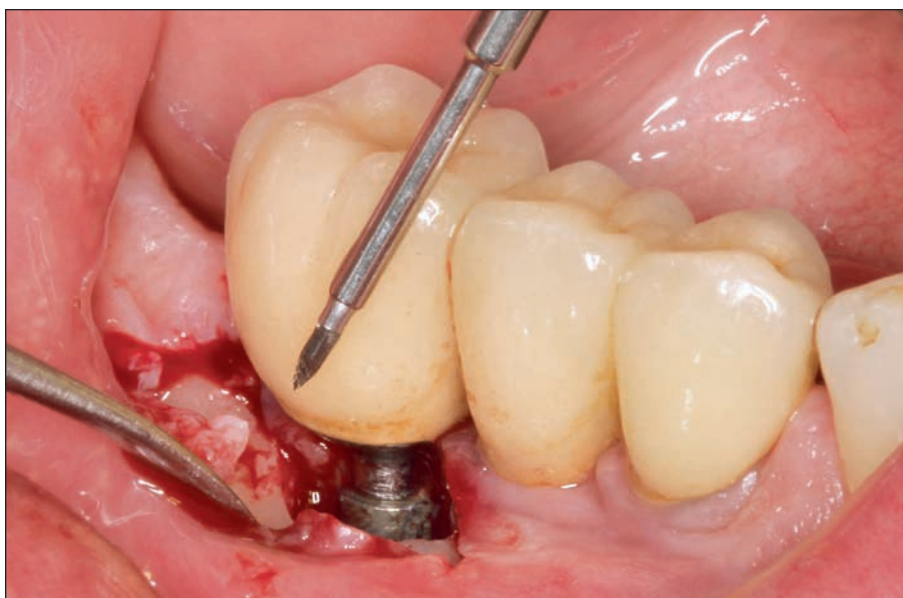


Fig 3 Titanium brush for the implant surface decontamination following surgical peri-implantitis treatment.

antimicrobials (ie, CHX with or without cetylpyridinium chloride) in conjunction with mechanical debridement failed to improve treatment outcomes compared to mechanical debridement alone.^{61,63–67} On the other hand, the use of titanium brushes for the mechanical debridement of the implant surface resulted in greater PD reduction and stable marginal bone levels compared to the implant sites cleaned with either plastic curettes or air-polishing with glycine powder.⁶⁸ According to the findings of the recent systematic reviews, no alternative or adjunctive physical, mechanical, or chemical decontamination measures could be superior to standard debridement procedures (mechanical debridement with or without saline).^{69,70} Nonetheless, based on a limited clinical evidence, titanium brushes may be beneficial in reducing signs of inflammation⁷⁰ (Fig 3).

With respect to the efficacy of local antimicrobials, the repeated application of local antibiotics (ie, minocycline ointment) after 6 months resulted in greater PD reduction, whereas similar BOP changes were achieved at test and control sites (ie, mechanical debridement alone).⁷¹ As demonstrated in two RCTs with follow-up periods of 1 and 3 years, prescription of systemic antibiotics failed to improve the outcomes of nonreconstructive peri-implantitis treatment.^{60,61} In corroboration with these results, one recent systematic review concluded that the adjunctive use of the currently tested systemic antimicrobials during surgical nonreconstructive therapy, compared to surgical therapy alone, does not seem to improve the clinical efficacy.⁷²

Outcomes of Nonreconstructive Therapy

The estimation of one recent meta-analysis revealed pronounced clinical improvements after 1 to 5 years

following nonreconstructive peri-implantitis therapy, depicted by a considerable decrease in PD (standardized mean effect (SME): 2.2 mm, CI: 1.8, 2.7 mm), BOP (SME: 27.0%; CI: 19.8, 34.2 mm) values, and marginal bone level gain (SME: 0.2 mm, CI: –0.0, 0.5 mm).⁵⁸ Treatment success, defined as an absence of PD \geq 5 mm with concomitant BOP/Sup and no progressive bone loss after 5 years, was documented in 53% of the implants, and 63% of the patients enrolled in regular supportive therapy.⁷³ Regarding the postoperative soft tissue-level changes, open flap debridement and pocket elimination surgical procedures were followed by a considerable soft tissue recession (weighted mean effect [WME] = 0.95 mm, CI: –0.20, 2.1 mm; and WME = 1.22 mm, CI: 0.71, 1.73 mm, respectively).⁷⁴

Disease recurrence was, however, frequently reported 5 years after the treatment (32.1% to 43.8% of implants).⁵⁸ Treatment outcomes were shown to be negatively influenced by the presence of initial PD > 8 mm, presence of Sup, extensive bone loss (> 7 mm), residual PDs \geq 6 mm 1 year after surgery, and modified implant surfaces.^{75–77}

Implantoplasty

Implantoplasty—the mechanical modification of an implant, including thread removal and surface smoothening—has been proposed during surgical peri-implantitis treatment.^{78,79} The procedure is intended to reduce the roughness of the exposed rough implant parts in the presence of supracrestal defects, thus reducing the surfaces' affinity for plaque accumulation and subsequently decreasing the risk of reinfection.⁸⁰

The benefits of implantoplasty were reported in one 3-year RCT, indicating a considerably higher extent of



Fig 4 Clinical case illustrating reconstructive peri-implantitis treatment at implant 015. (a) Preoperative intraoral view showing a PD value of 5 mm along with BOP. (b) Intraoperative view showing intrabony defect 3 mm in depth. (c) Intrabony defect homogeneously filled with a bovine mineral embedded in a collagen matrix (Bio-Oss Collagen). (d) Treated area covered with a native collagen membrane (Bio-Guide). (e) Suturing.

PD reduction, greater decrease of mucosal-inflammation, and stable marginal-bone levels at implant sites adjunctively treated with implantoplasty compared to those treated with open flap debridement alone.^{81,82} This report is in line with the results of one recent meta-analysis, which pointed out significant PD reduction following implantoplasty (WME = -1.11 mm; $P = .02$) and revealed no negative effect of the procedure on postoperative soft tissue recession (WME = -0.02 mm; $P = .95$).¹⁵ Moreover, the probability of treatment success (defined as implant being in function) 6 and 24 months after surgical peri-implantitis treatment employing implantoplasty amounted to 97.5% and 94.7% of the implants, respectively.⁸³

The summary of the currently available preclinical in vivo and clinical evidence could not relate implantoplasty with any remarkable mechanical or biologic complications in the short to medium term.⁷⁹ Nonetheless, as suggested by the recent experimental data, although implantoplasty does not alter the biomechanical properties of implants with a standard diameter (4.1 to 4.7 mm), implants with reduced diameters (3.3 to 3.75 mm) after implantoplasty have shown reduced resistance to bending forces and in turn increased risk of an implant fracture.^{84,85} Therefore, one should take caution when planning to perform implantoplasty at implants with reduced diameters.

Reconstructive Therapy

In addition to the resolution of inflammation, reconstructive peri-implantitis therapy is intended to regenerate the bone defect, achieve osteointegration, and limit postoperative soft tissue recession.⁸⁶ Reconstructive measures may be considered at peri-implantitis sites featuring intraosseous defects with a depth ≥ 3 mm¹² (Fig 4).

Comparative clinical studies investigating the efficacy of various implant surface decontamination methods in conjunction with reconstructive peri-implantitis therapy have found no benefits provided by the application of a CO₂ laser (ie, in terms of BOP, PD changes), whereas improved radiographic defect fill could be observed at implant sites adjunctively treated with ozone therapy.^{87,88}

The restoration of peri-implant defects may be performed using bone filler particles alone or in a combination with a barrier membrane by employing a guided bone regeneration principle (GBR). One recent network meta-analysis was designed to determine the efficacy of different reconstructive protocols for treating peri-implantitis related bone defects.⁸⁹ Based on the established networks, the GBR approach employing xenogeneic bone substitutes led to higher reduction in BOP and PD values, improved radiographic bone levels, and less soft tissue recession compared to the GBR protocol implementing autogenous bone.⁸⁹ Furthermore, as shown by the previous 4-year clinical study,

greater improvement in BOP and PD values were obtained at peri-implantitis sites filled with xenogeneic bone substitute particles compared to those treated with synthetic bone filler.⁹⁰ Given these findings, it appears that from the clinical perspective, reconstructive treatment protocols implementing xenogeneic bone substitutes may lead to enhanced therapeutic endpoints compared to GBR employing autogenous or synthetic bone alone.

Considering the potential added benefit of the adjunctive use of a barrier membrane compared to only using a bone substitute, based on three comparative clinical studies, a resorbable barrier membrane applied over allogenic or xenogeneic bone substitute materials failed to improve therapeutic outcomes compared to the application of a bone filler alone.^{91–93} In fact, the implant sites treated with an adjunctive barrier membrane were more frequently associated with postoperative complications, such as soft tissue dehiscence and membrane or bone filler exposure.⁹³ One recent network meta-analysis likewise failed to show any benefits of a barrier membrane applied over xenogeneic bone substitutes (particulated or collagen embedded) in terms of PD and BOP changes (WME = 0.3 mm; $P = .689$ and WME = 2.2%, $P = .865$, respectively).⁹⁴ Furthermore, the comparison of a concentrated growth-factor membrane with a collagen membrane along with xenogeneic bone filler resulted in higher PD reduction, whereas changes in BOP and radiographic defect fill were comparable between the treatment groups.⁹⁵

So far, there are no comparative clinical studies assessing the influence of systemic antibiotics on the clinical or radiographic outcomes of reconstructive peri-implantitis treatment. However, in the case of reconstructive procedures, systemic antibiotics may not be used to improve the therapeutic outcomes but to reduce the risk of postoperative infection of the delicate grafting material. Nonetheless, also from this perspective, the current clinical data is scarce.

Outcomes of Reconstructive Therapy

In accordance with the recent clinical recommendation, the results of reconstructive peri-implantitis treatment should be based on a composite outcome, including parameters such as PD, BOP, Sup, soft tissue recession, and radiographic bone fill.⁸⁶ Considering the similar success criteria based on the combination of clinical and radiographic outcomes, at 5 to 7 years after reconstructive peri-implantitis therapy, treatment success was achieved in 51.1% and 58.3% of implants with smooth and moderately rough surfaces whereas at implants with modified surfaces, treatment success was documented in 14.3% of the implants after 7 years.^{92–96} With respect to the postoperative soft tissue level changes, reconstructive approaches yielded significantly lower soft tissue

mucosal recession compared to open flap debridement (WDE = -1.35 mm, $P = .038$).⁷⁴

One relevant factor influencing the outcomes of the reconstructive peri-implantitis therapy is the morphology of peri-implant defects. Specifically, greater PD reduction and radiographic defect fill following reconstructive peri-implantitis therapy using particulated bone filler in conjunction with a barrier membrane was obtained in peri-implantitis cases featuring circumferential-type defects (ie, four-wall defects) compared to those lacking buccal or lingual walls (ie, three-wall defects).^{97,98} Likewise, four-wall defects showed 6.0 to 7.0 times greater odds ratios of a successful treatment outcome (ie, absence of additional bone loss and $PD \leq 5$ mm) compared to three- and two-wall defects, respectively.⁹⁵ Moreover, deeper intrabody defects resulted in greater radiographic defect fill.⁹⁸ Contradictory findings were reported in one 5-year prospective clinical study, in which defect morphology did not affect the outcomes of reconstructive peri-implantitis therapy implemented using xenogeneic bone filler particles embedded in a collagen matrix.⁹⁹ When interpreting those contradiction, it is important to underline differences in the nature of the bone substitute materials used in the aforementioned studies, because particulated bone substitutes may be less prone to obtaining the stability in the noncontained parts of the defect compared to the volume-stabilized material.

Reconstructive vs Nonreconstructive Therapy

Based on a recent systematic review and meta-analysis, at 12 months, reconstructive peri-implantitis therapy resulted in improved radiographic marginal bone levels (WME = -0.75 mm, $P = .022$) compared to open flap debridement, whereas no significant difference was observed in the extent of PD reduction (WME = -0.38 mm; $P = .325$).⁹⁴ The results of another systematic review and meta-analysis in addition to the improved radiographic defect restoration (WME = 56.46%, $P = .01$ and WME = -1.47 mm, $P = .01$, respectively) revealed greater PD reduction (WME = 0.63, $P = .01$) and less postoperative soft tissue recession (WME = 0.63 mm, $P = .01$) following implementation of adjunctive reconstructive compared to the open flap debridement surgery.¹⁵ However, the extent in the BOP changes were comparable between the reconstructive and nonreconstructive treatment approaches (WME = 11.11%, $P = .11$).¹⁵ In corroboration with these results, the outcomes of a recent multicenter RCT revealed a reduced extent of postoperative soft tissue recession following reconstructive therapy, which may have a great impact in esthetic cases, while changes in BOP were comparable between the test and control (ie, open flap debridement) groups.¹⁰⁰

In this context, it is important to note that the aforementioned meta-analyses and RCT comparing the

efficacy of reconstructive therapy to open flap debridement induced a wide range of defect configurations, which, as previously discussed, might greatly influence the reported outcomes.

Combined Therapy

Combined peri-implantitis surgical approaches have been advocated for the peri-implantitis sites featuring a combined defect configuration (ie, horizontal [noncontained] and vertical [contained] bone loss patterns).¹⁰¹ This surgical treatment includes the use of implantoplasty at the noncontained parts of the defects and reconstructive therapy employed at the contained defect compartments.¹⁰¹

Three previous RCTs assessed the efficacy of various implant surface decontamination approaches in conjunction with the combined surgical approach.^{102–104} One RCT revealed the beneficial effects of the adjunctive use of titanium brushes along with the mechanical debridement and H₂O₂ (3%) irrigation in reducing the deepest PD values.¹⁰³ Two remaining RCTs investigated the efficacy of an Er:YAG laser, one of which pointed to significantly higher PD reduction after 6 months following adjunctive use of Er:YAG, whereas another 7-year RCT denied the benefits of an Er:YAG laser by reporting similar BOP and PD changes compared to the conventional decontamination (ie, mechanical debridement and saline-soaked cotton gauze).^{69,104} Within 1 to 7 years, the reported treatment success, defined as either the absence of BOP or the absence of PD \geq 5 mm with no BOP, Sup, and no additional bone loss was achieved in 60% and 23% to 66.7% of the implants, respectively.

Assessment of Surgical Peri-implantitis Treatment Outcomes and Supportive Peri-implant Therapy

As documented by clinical studies, presence of plaque at the implant sites and poor or lack of adherence to supportive care are the main factors associated with the recurrence of inflammation at the treated implant.^{76,105} Therefore, surgical treatment of peri-implantitis should be followed by supportive therapy provided every 3 to 4 months for the first 12 months, commencing 3 months after surgery.¹² Thereafter, the frequency of supportive therapy appointments should be tailored individually according to patient-, implant-, and restoration-based risk factors.

The protocol for supportive therapy should include assessment of peri-implant tissue health, reinforcement of individually performed oral hygiene, and professional plaque removal. So far, no specific protocol could be recommended for the professional mechanical plaque removal in patients treated for peri-implantitis.¹² However, such tools as titanium or stainless steel curettes, ultrasonic instruments, rubber cup or brushes, air-polishing

device with glycine or erythritol powder may be used alone or in combination.

It is recommended to assess the clinical outcomes of surgical peri-implantitis treatment 6 months after the treatment by gently probing peri-implant tissues.¹² The disease resolution is defined by the combination criteria, including \leq 1 point of BOP, absence of Sup, PD \leq 5 mm, and absence of progressive bone loss compared to pretreatment bone levels.¹² If those endpoints cannot be obtained, re-treatment (nonsurgical or surgical) should be considered. In cases showing acute signs of recurrent peri-implant tissue inflammation (ie, profuse BOP, Sup), particularly advanced peri-implantitis lesions (bone loss $>$ two thirds of implant length), implant removal may be indicated. At dental implants with advanced bone loss that do not play a strategic role in masticatory function, implant removal may be immediately considered. Indications for explantation also include the presence of clinical signs indicating a loss of osseointegration, complex implant designs (eg, hollow-cylinder implants), technical complications (eg, implant fracture), or complex infections affecting adjacent anatomical structures (eg, maxillary sinus, inferior alveolar nerve).¹⁰⁶

In this context, it should be noted that the high recurrence rates of peri-implantitis following the surgical treatment irrespective of the treatment modality generate additional costs for the patients, of which the patients should be aware prior to the start of the treatment. Although implant loss is related to considerably greater costs compared to the peri-implantitis treatment, the need for repeated interventions after surgical peri-implantitis treatment and the risk of reinfection leading to implant loss need to be discussed with the patient.¹⁰⁷ On the other hand, in the decision to “treat or remove,” the gradually decreasing implant survival rates following the second or third attempt of reimplantation at the sites of previously failed implants sites should be considered.¹⁰⁸

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mechanical biofilm removal along with the reinforcement of patient administered oral hygiene is considered standard case treatment for peri-implant mucositis. The outcomes of peri-implant mucositis treatment should be assessed 2 to 3 months after therapy, and in the absence of treatment success, a repeated intervention may be considered.

Peri-implantitis treatment should follow a stepwise treatment approach, starting with nonsurgical treatment and followed by surgical intervention if the treatment is not sufficient.

Assessment of the outcomes of nonsurgical peri-implantitis treatment after 6 to 12 weeks is recommended. If the end points of the nonsurgical therapy (ie, PD \leq 5 mm

with ≤ 1 point with BOP and no Sup) have not been achieved, surgical intervention should be considered.

Surgical peri-implantitis therapies include nonreconstructive, reconstructive, and combined treatment. Implantoplasty may be advocated for the treatment of supracrestal peri-implant defects, whereas reconstructive therapy is indicated at peri-implantitis sites featuring intraosseous defects with a depth ≥ 3 mm. Adjunctive reconstructive measures may be beneficial in enhancing radiographic defect fill and maintaining postoperative soft tissue levels, which may have a great impact in esthetically demanding areas.

Outcomes of surgical peri-implantitis therapy should be assessed 6 months after treatment. If the end points (ie, ≤ 1 point with BOP, absence of Sup, PD ≤ 5 mm and absence of progressive bone loss) could not be obtained, re-treatment or, in some cases, implant removal should be considered.

Ultimately, the currently available evidence for the treatment of peri-implant disease recommends the following: (1) The adjunctive use of systemic antibiotics during surgical therapy does not seem to improve clinical efficacy. (2) Regular supportive peri-implant therapy with biofilm removal should be an integral part of the treatment protocol of peri-implant diseases. (3) In the presence of advanced bone loss at implants that do not play a strategic role in masticatory function, implant removal may be immediately considered.

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