



Are we all looking in the mirror?

Last year, IJOI published an editorial on the topic of receiving training to perform complex surgical procedures. Several comments on social media revealed that many dental practitioners did not read the entire editorial and/or made inaccurate assumptions after having read it. The piece pointed out that it is important that dental practitioners identify the complexity of and risks posed by a case before treating the patient in order to improve the predictability and success of the outcome. Novice clinicians should expect to have a greater incidence of complications and failures when attempting more advanced surgical procedures. Furthermore, it stated “there are certainly some [general dental practitioners] who dedicate more time to education and training to enhance their knowledge and skills so they can take on more complicated cases” and closed with the statement “we should all do what is in the best interest of our patients, who place their trust and confidence in our hands”.

As the Chairman of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI), I wanted to publish a follow-up editorial that addresses any misconceptions and concerns held by ICOI members. All over the world, every graduate from dental school is eligible to perform dental procedures to treat their patients. The decision to treat a particular condition is based on the training and experience of the dental practitioner, the complexity of the case and the patient’s preference. If the dental practitioner has received adequate training and feels confident that they can achieve a successful outcome, then they may proceed to perform treatment. When necessary, a referral may be made to a more experienced clinician or competent specialist.

Many general dental practitioners invest significant amounts of time and money in continuing

education courses to be able to offer their patients more comprehensive treatment. With commitment and dedication, they may develop clinical competence over time. The same can be said of dental specialists. Some periodontics, prosthodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery residency programmes provide more clinical experience and training in implant dentistry than others. In addition, some clinicians have technical skills that allow them to excel in surgical procedures, whereas others may have greater difficulty developing proficiency. As such, we cannot make blanket statements about one group or another. We all need to perform a self-assessment, know our limitations and create our own boundaries.

The ICOI just celebrated its 50-year anniversary of advancing the field of implant dentistry. The leaders of the organisation have dedicated their careers to training and educating dental practitioners, as well as providing an environment that is conducive to sharing information and learning. Every implant dental practitioner should be a lifelong student of the field in order to give their patients the most evidence-based and contemporary treatment available.



Ady Palti, DDS
Chairman, ICOI