



## The Foundation for Oral Rehabilitation (FOR) as the basis for this consensus conference

It is symptomatic for the FOR to devote a consensus conference to a subject many others try to ignore: "Complications of implant-based treatments". Complications – most of which are reversible – occur regularly when oral endosseous implants are used to carry a dental prosthesis. Although they are mainly reversible, public opinion has still often associated these implants with failure. But complications should not be designated as failures; rather they should be seen as seeds for progress.

Since the deed of foundation of the FOR explicitly mentions: "The purpose of the Foundation is to promote excellence in the fields of oral and maxillofacial rehabilitation... by providing scientifically based knowledge and experience to improve the quality of patients' lives and oral health care effectiveness", it became logical that gathering a group of international scientists and clinicians with different backgrounds known for their expertise in how to deal with complications would benefit the purpose of the Foundation.

To avoid gathering "the usual suspects", the participants in the consensus were selected on the basis of their contributions in the field, their citation index and their willingness to join without receiving financial compensation.

Hippocrates wrote: "There are in fact two things, science and opinion; the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance". This is particularly true for the subject of complications in this field. Indeed, the verification of certain theories in literature was weak or did not keep pace with recent developments.

The group was nevertheless able to identify a series of factors which contribute to the incidence of complications: improper imaging and planning, local and systemic patient factors, hardware with a special focus on implant surface characteristics, lack of experience of the surgeon and/or restorative dentist, and lack of a team approach.

The use of the term "revision surgery", which is common to several medical specialities, should be adopted in the field of oral rehabilitation to reassure the patient population.

It was a privilege for both of us to coach this happening and interact with so many cooperative colleagues. We are also grateful to Marco Esposito, who as editor-in-chief of this journal hosts us graciously each time.

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