

Dental Nursing

Implantology in Practice

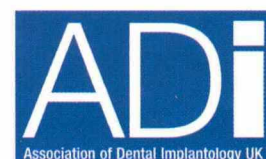
THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL CHAMPIONING IMPLANT BEST PRACTICE

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In partnership with the Association of Dental Implantology UK



Nobel Biocare and implant nursing

As an implant dental nurse, it is essential to keep up-to-date with new developments to ensure best possible patient care and comfort. Pauline Smith explains, drawing on her own experiences.

Staying up-to-date with the latest developments is crucial in dentistry. By remaining at the forefront of new, scientifically proven technology, dental teams can not only provide a superior service to patients, but each member of the team can improve their skills and knowledge, making them more valuable to their practice.

Twenty years ago, I began my career in dental nursing and was very excited about being involved with dental implant treatments. Having been hospital trained, I had developed an interest in oral surgery; implantology seemed a natural extension to other oral surgery procedures.

Having gained a broad range of experience in implant nursing using several different systems over the last 12 years, I realized that by partnering with a leading company that provides cutting edge systems and solutions, dental professionals can achieve great expertise.

Rockingham House Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry

After completing my training at Sheffield Dental Hospital, I worked with Dr Dee Sircar in Doncaster, who pioneered many advanced techniques. Now part of the expert team at Rockingham House Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry in Fitzwilliam, Pontefract, I work with Dr Sharif Khan, using the most advanced and reliable system to maximize the opportunities offered by guided implants.

At Rockingham House we use Nobel Biocare's NobelGuide. Planning the case with this system, with models or the NobelProcera software, allows us to place implants using the keyhole technique with immediate function. This translates to shorter treatment time and superior comfort—as one of my

main responsibilities is to ensure the comfort of the patient, this is a huge benefit.

Using this solution shortens appointments, which is more convenient for the patient and for the dental team. There is virtually no post-operative pain, as there are no sutures (although on occasion we will raise flaps and place sutures when bone volume restricts our options). The raising of flaps was routine when I started my career in implant nursing, but with all the advances that have been made, it seems old-fashioned to me.

Patient after-care

The day after treatment, we make courtesy calls to see how the patient is feeling. Most of them are back at work, or out shopping! It once seemed unimaginable that implant cases could be completed so quickly and simply, but we are able to convert a full denture into an implant-supported fixed bridge in a single morning thanks to advancing technology.

The situation reminds me of the way e-mail and text messaging was used just a few years ago. These were facilities that only a few people used, but now they have been embraced by every demographic. They are now standard methods of communication. I feel that the system of planning we use may well be the standard in 10 years' time, and I really feel privileged to have been involved in its usage from such an early phase.

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Pauline Smith uses Nobel Biocare in her work as an implant nurse at Rockingham House Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry.

Feedback

Feedback from patients is overwhelmingly positive. Patient care is paramount, and like any conscientious dental team we take their opinions very seriously. Having asked one of our patients to provide an account of the procedure from his perspective, his response was illuminating as to how we have made the right choice with our implant system.

Recommended for implant treatment by his NHS dentist, the patient found the procedure 'very relaxing after medication'. Provided with

headphones so that he could listen to music during treatment, he was 'put at ease very quickly by the kind and efficient staff.'

Considering what the procedure requires, it is remarkable how the right approach can ensure that the patient remains comfortable throughout. The patient said:

'After the initial painkilling injections, the procedure was carried out. I was listening to the music and I became so relaxed that even while the drilling was taking place, I began to sing along. The implant was screwed into place and the tooth fixed into it. The procedure took between 35 and 40 minutes, which seemed to pass very quickly. It appears to me that this procedure is very advanced and not complicated, with no real discomfort. The implant does not feel foreign—more part of the gum. I would recommend this treatment to anyone who needs a replacement tooth.'

Conclusions

The advances that have been made in implant treatment really have been to the benefit of both the dental team and patients. I really enjoy working with the NobelGuide system, and it would certainly be my choice of implant solution if I were to have treatment myself. Staying up to date with the new developments is crucial for many reasons—to ensure that the practice can meet patient needs, remain competitive and that staff members such as myself can play their vital role to the highest possible standard—and represents the way forward for dentistry.

I would strongly recommend other practices to explore the possibilities offered by the new generation of implant solutions, which really do revolutionize treatment.