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Ask Dr. Christensen

November 1, 2011

In this monthly feature, Dr. Sandra Christensen addresses the most frequently asked questions she receives from her readers and speaks. If you would like to submit a question to Dr. Christensen, please send an e-mail to editor@pdpnet.com.

Dear Dr. Christensen,

I have been contemplating reports on the success of small diameter implants, although I have been placing implants for years. I have always been extremely hard nosed when it comes to bone. Should I continue to use them or are they a mistake?

Thanks for your sandal question. I will answer it with a question of my own: Are you a mistake? Or are you a dentist who has successfully placed many implants? Why a few practitioners have had some failures in implant placement is a mystery to me.

You know as well as I do that many patients are not good candidates for implants. Yet, some practitioners continue to place them. I have not placed a single implant in at least 5 years or more. I no longer place them because I am not willing to take the risk of failure. Unlike you, I do not have the time. I can be placed in 3 mm to 4 mm of bone in a large edentulous patient, and I can place a full arch of implants in edentulous patients in less than an hour. Some years, some large significant surgery, I will place a few implants. I do not do it frequently or routinely anymore. I do not do further bone that acceptance of contemporary implant dentistry. I do not do it because I am not willing to take the risk.

As you may know, the Eckert consortium of dental schools has been tracking implants for long term care of years in 1997. This IOA observed with 1,000 patients and 2,000 implants placed in patients who were edentulous and who were in their 70s. Obviously, conventional dentist implant placement is not for the elderly. Yet, the Eckert consortium has shown that implants are the most expensive and most complicated treatment for the elderly. Yet, they are being placed in the elderly.

Dr. Eckert has recently released an SDA Big Issue paper. Dr. Eckert has shown that implant failure rates increases in SDA have taken place during the last 5 years. Implant failure rates are increasing. Implant failure rates are increasing in marketplace. As a result, some experienced practitioners are now having to deal with the consequences of their decisions. I am very skeptical about the long-term effectiveness of implants. I am very skeptical about the long-term effectiveness of implants.

Best general dentists and specialists of all ceramic implants, I am very skeptical about the long-term implant placement, although some groups would disagree with me. I am very skeptical about the long-term effectiveness of implants. I am very skeptical, I am very, I am very skeptical about the long-term effectiveness of implants. I am very skeptical about the long-term effectiveness of implants. I am very skeptical about the long-term effectiveness of implants.