

## The (Technical) Revolution Is On



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**T**he innovations in dental implants over the past 30 years have made implant therapy the new paradigm for treating missing teeth as well as edentulous jaws. Improvements and new technologies in treatment planning, surgery, and prosthetics offer patients a higher standard of care while also providing esthetics, function, and optimal oral health.

It is obvious that the demographics of an aging population are changing. Baby-boomers are getting older and have a demanding level of expectations: they want to stay healthy and well for as long as possible. But, a population that is living longer, taking more medications, and dealing with chronic disease comes with a unique set of challenges, and their cases are becoming more complex. These patients require comprehensive care that includes all of the various dental specialties along with meticulous restorative therapy. Implants provide the final, and often largest, piece to this puzzle.

As a result, the team approach to treatment planning is of utmost importance. The long-term success of dental implants is a direct outcome of experienced implant surgeons and restorative dentists working together for the benefit of all patients, especially those who require comprehensive care. Collaboration is often essential, and a shared responsibility can actually increase efficiency.

Fortunately, we are witnessing a technological revolution in treatment planning surgery and prosthetics. Diagnostics aided by advanced digital radiography allow the team to plan which teeth can be maintained and which sites are best suited for implant placement. Tissue engineering has made more patients and more sites eligible for implant therapy, and digital impressions along with CAD/CAM customized restorations have empowered restorative dentists to be able to deliver esthetic and durable solutions.

Implant dentistry is indeed a team effort. This *Compendium* annual implant special issue is dedicated to helping clinicians learn and embrace the techniques and technologies involved in this expanding field of dentistry.

Sincerely,

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