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Oral Implants and Oral Health in the Course of Time

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Since the establishment of the concept of osseointegration, the use of endosseous implants has not stopped growing. The first evidence of dental implants is ascribed to the Mayan civilization around 600 AD. During those times, many attempts to replace missing teeth were tried, using the most diverse materials, and utilizing very different techniques to make them stay into place. After the discovery of Osseointegration in the seventies, P-I Brånemark developed a two-stage threaded root-form implant made of commercial pure titanium. Brånemark and his team showed that these fixtures could hold a fixed restoration in totally edentulous patients. After a slow start, dental implants began to be used in patients more and more frequently. Indications were developed at the same rate as the implants were perfected in terms of their shapes, designs, surface treatments as well as connections. As time passed, mechanical as well as biological problems began to appear. The mechanical faults led to more implant design developments. Biological problems took longer to be understood and to have avenues for treatment of these new pathologies. Inflammation of soft and hard tissues adjacent to implants were diagnosed and treatment protocols were developed. The annual global dental implant market grew tremendously and is estimated at around 12–18 million implants sold, while in Europe alone, the annual market is estimated to be around 5.5–6 million implants. Following the American Dental Association´s statistics, 5 million implants are placed every year just in the USA. Knowing that peri-implant mucositis and peri-implantitis are highly prevalent and their management is challenging, unpredictable and associated with significant morbidity, these results will lead to a rate of 2.64 – 4 million peri-implantitis cases globally.
The presentation will discuss the evolution of implants and implant treatments as well as look at the present perspectives and challenges in the field of implant rehabilitation.