**SCREW-RETIRED RESTORATIONS ENHANCED BY NOBEL BIOCARE**

With Nobel Biocare’s new NobelProcera Angulated Screw Channel (ASC) abutment and Omnigrill tooling, another true innovation is on display at the EAO Annual Scientific Congress in Rome. According to the Swiss implant manufacturer, these products will allow clinicians to offer screw-retained restorations in a practical and aesthetic way with a minimum of soft tissue gain, a unique feature that has previously been impossible to achieve in some cases.

Screw channels can be placed with an angle of up to 25 degrees from the axis of the implant, anywhere within a 360-degree radius. This makes it possible to use screw-retained restorations in the anterior aesthetic region where a buccal screw access point would previously have ruled them out. When designing the ASC abutment in the NobelProcera Software, the screw access hole can instead be positioned on the lingual side of the restoration. This way, patients benefit from an optimally aesthetic result without any risks related to excess cement. Using a screw-retained rather than a cement-retained solution also makes the restoration easier to retrieve, the company said.

When used on molars or premolars, the ability to tilt the screw channel into the most convenient position makes it easier for the clinician to access and place the restoration. As a one-piece restoration the NobelProcera ASC abutment requires less involvement from the dental lab for quicker and more cost-effective production. Combined with improved aesthetics and easier maintenance, patient acceptance can be improved significantly. Moreover, once the patient is in the chair, placing just a single piece makes the overall procedure more comfortable.

The angulated screw channel option is available for all NobelBiocare abutments on narrow platform and regular platform implants with Nobel Biocare’s internal conical connection. This advanced connection is available for Nobel Biocare’s award-winning NobelActive family, as well as on NobelReplace Conical Connection and NobelReplace Conical Connection PMC (Partially Machined Collar) implants. It offers a hexagonal internal locking mechanism for a tight seal and high mechanical strength.

The conical connection also allows for platform shifting. This ‘shift’ moves the implant-abutment junction onto the implant platform, making room for maximum soft tissue volume to safely come up onto the platform edge. Platform shifting therefore adds to more natural-looking gums for an even better aesthetic result. Moving the junction further away from the bone has also been shown to reduce radiographically detectable crestal bone loss, according to Nobel Biocare.

Given that individualised abutments from NobelProcera allow the Custom emergence profile to be defined, the combined effect is designed to give an unrivalled soft tissue result. Owing to a titanium adapter, this zirconia option can also be utilised in the posterior area, providing the clinician with an entirely new option for delivering the best possible restoration.

The benefits of the ASC abutment are only possible thanks to the introduction of the associated Omnigrill tooling. The unique tip of the screwdriver allows the screw to be tightened and loosened within the angled channel with the same accessibility and torque compared to when the channel was straight, providing easy handling from multiple angles, even in the posterior. The pick-up feature of the tip allows the Omnigrill screwdriver to grip and hold the screw equally tightly at any angle within the available range. Omnigrill is designed to hold the screw firmly when it matters most—when the clinician is working in the patient’s mouth.

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**OPTIMISING THE DIGITAL WORKFLOW WITH CONNECT DENTAL**

Dental digitalisation provides unprecedented possibilities to implant dentistry, leading to improved aesthetic quality for the patient and higher efficiency for the implant specialist. Henry Schein, a leading provider of products and services to office-based dental practitioners and laboratories, developed a comprehensive approach to help dentists throughout Europe make the best possible use of digital solutions for patients and practitioners. Under the umbrella brand Connect Dental, the company is offering a customer-tailored consultancy service aiming at enhancing dentistry through digitisation and a comprehensive range of digital products. This includes newest technologies, high-quality materials and products, professional consulting in numerous areas, and financial services—as well as various educational and training courses. With Connect Dental, EAO Gold Standards Partner Henry Schein emphasizes the open architecture format for integrating digital technology into any clinical setting.

In the framework of ConnectDental, Henry Schein supports implant specialists in optimising the complete prosthetic workflow, including diagnostic and CAD/CAM supported prosthetic planning of implant cases as well as cooperation with the laboratory. As each dentist has his or her own treatment procedure and laboratory partners to serve the needs of patients, Henry Schein provides its customers a complete but individually customised service. Data exchange between dental practice and lab, one of the main obstacles for a purely digital workflow, is reduced to a few clicks. To make this possible, digital specialists work closely with both sides to develop a solution that suits all needs, the company said. According to Henry Schein, one of the outstanding strengths of ConnectDental is that specialists are familiar with the requirements and work processes of laboratories and dental practices.

DDX, an open software platform between the laboratory and the dental practice that runs on standard browsers, is designed to allow an even smoother data exchange. The platform has already been launched in the US, Canada and the UK with other European countries to follow.

In Italy, ConnectDental was launched for Henry Schein Krugg customers earlier this year. This offering includes intraoral scanners Apollon DI and Omnicam from Sirona for the dentists to capture the digital impression. On the laboratory side, CAD/CAM milling systems from VHF for the laboratory and two new model-scanners for Open Technology, an Italian high-tech company, have been added to the offering.

In order to guarantee its clients high-level service, training and update programmes, Henry Schein Krugg started a collaboration with Cabelpiù, an Italian company specialising in CAD/CAM systems for laboratories. Henry Schein Krugg is already present in dental practices with a full assortment of market-leading High Tech 3D Conebeam CBCT systems, lasers, microscopy and CAD/CAM systems, where it is the market leader in the distribution of CEREC chair side systems by Sirona. Through this and in combination with the newly added assortment on the laboratory side, the company is now able to provide clinicians with an entire digital workflow and to support customers in Italy with solutions that increase efficiency with support, and optimise the implant planning and prosthetic implant process like custom abutments etc.

Since IDS 2013, Henry Schein has launched ConnectDental in all major European markets. While the product offering varies from country to country, the general commitment of Henry Schein to provide excellent products and services transcends borders. European, the ConnectDental service and support is covered by a group of 190 specially trained and experienced sales and integration specialists for digital dentistry and digital restorations and is backed up by 460 Henry Schein service technicians. The specialists build a close network with the regional branches and local field representatives to benefit from comprehensive training programmes at various locations involving 50 dental information centers.

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