‘An alternative to any procedure’

Dr. John Russo talks about the benefits of his Ellman radiosurgery unit

By today Staff

John Russo DDS, MHS, is a periodontist in Sarasota, Fla. He graduated from the Ohio State University College of Dentistry and received a periodontics certificate from the Medical University of South Carolina as well as a master in health sciences degree. Today he is a clinical assistant professor of periodontics at the Medical University of South Carolina, a diplomate of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists and a nationally recognized expert in dental implants and bone grafting.

One of the products Russo spends a lot of time with is his Ellman radiosurgery unit, which can be used for more than 30 different dental procedures and appeals to those ready to move beyond the scalpel as well as those looking for an alternative to lasers and electrocautery units.

Russo said he has been using his unit for more than 10 years on a daily basis. today talked with him to get a little more insight into what he likes about it.

What do you use your Ellman radiosurgery unit for? How many procedures can it be used for?
The Ellman radiosurgery unit can be used as an alternative to any procedure performed with a scalpel. I use my unit for: cautery of donor sites for gingival grafts, making incisions, harvesting donor tissue for soft-tissue grafts, excisional biopsies, gingivoplasty, removal of pigmentation, frenectomies and many other procedures.

What do you see as the benefit of Ellman’s radiofrequency technology as compared to lasers and electrocautery?
In my experience, the Ellman radiosurgery unit has significantly less collateral thermal penetration/damage than electro surgery units. Another benefit is I do not have to “ground” my patients prior to using the technology.

How are the results?
The results can be described as laser-like surgery. The result of cutting or cauterizing tissue with the Ellman unit is minimal heat production and minimal depth of tissue penetration.

Does your Ellman provide good return on investment?
When comparing the cost of my Ellman unit to my laser, the Ellman is significantly less expensive and allows me to perform more treatments, mostly due to the availability of different tips for different procedures. The Ellman has been a great return on investment.

To see the Ellman radiosurgery unit for yourself, check out the booth, No. 1218, in the exhibit hall.
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Fixed and removable implant restorations: A solution for every arch

By Paresh B. Patel, DDS

When a patient presents with an edentulous arch or terminal dentition, implant treatment can be provided that improves not only form and function but also quality of life. For patients desiring better chewing capability, stability, esthetics and comfort than a traditional denture can offer, both removable and fixed implant restorations are superior alternatives.

As evidenced by the case that follows, in which one arch is restored with an implant overdenture and the other with a BruxZir® Full-Arch Implant Prosthesis, practitioners today have a great deal of clinical flexibility.

Case presentation

A 47-year-old male presented with terminal dentition in both arches resulting from periodontal disease and severe caries (Fig. 1). He had saved up enough money for a fixed implant restoration for his upper arch, for which he desired the most stable, functional prosthesis possible.

While he couldn’t afford such a restoration for both arches, he wanted a retentive appliance for his mandible. The patient accepted a treatment plan in which his maxilla would be restored with a BruxZir Full-Arch Implant Prosthesis and his mandible with an Inclusive® Locator Implant Overdenture.

At the surgical appointment, the patient’s remaining teeth were removed. Four Inclusive Tapered Implants (Glidewell Direct, Irvine, Calif.) were placed in each arch. Inclusive Multi-Unit Abutments (Glidewell Direct) were attached to the maxillary implants, correcting for their divergent angulation.

Having achieved sufficient primary stability, the implants placed in the patient’s maxilla were loaded with an immediate denture, satisfying the patient’s desire to leave the surgical appointment with a fixed maxillary prosthesis in place.

A lower immediate denture was modified and relined to seat over the mandibular implants during healing. The final radiograph taken after seating the temporary appliances confirmed excellent positioning of the implants (Fig. 2).

Three and a half months later, VPS impressions were taken. The restorative protocol for both prostheses included wax rims and setups. After final approval of the wax setups, a custom-tray final impression was taken of the maxillary arch to ensure the prosthesis was accurate before milling the final restoration from monolithic zirconia.

The lab fabricated the final lower appliance, including denture caps that provide retention and stabilize the prosthesis. Based on the custom-tray final impression, the maxillary prosthesis was designed using advanced dental CAD software, and a provisional implant prosthesis was milled from PMMA.

At the following appointment, the Inclusive Locator Implant Overdenture was seated and checked for proper fit and function. Then the provisional implant prosthesis was screwed into place, and its teeth positioning, function and esthetics were verified.

With both appliances in place, the interocclusal relationship was checked and minor adjustments made. The patient wore the provisional full-arch implant prosthesis for a trial period of two weeks to verify the accuracy of the design before it was returned to the lab.

The final BruxZir Full-Arch Implant Prosthesis was digitally fabricated with precision and, as an exact reproduction of the test-driven provisional, fit perfectly and offered the esthetics and function the patient had come to expect (Fig. 3).

The final restoration effectively addressed the unique circumstances of the case, providing the most durable, stable prosthetic appliance for his upper and a lower restoration that greatly improves prosthetic retention.

Fig. 1: Preoperative condition of the patient. Note the high lip line, severe cervical decay present on the patient’s remaining teeth and lack of gingival support. (Photos/Provided by Glidewell Laboratories)

Fig. 2: Postoperative panoramic radiograph illustrates All-on-4 configuration of maxillary implants and axial placement of the mandibular implants, which would facilitate a passive fit of the lower overdenture.

Fig. 3: The final BruxZir Full-Arch Implant Prosthesis completes a dramatic oral reconstruction for a patient who presented with terminal dentition, restoring form, function and quality of life.
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A new generation of core build-up material

By Kettenbach LP Staff

Visalys® Core, the new product from Kettenbach LP, represents the next generation of core build-up materials. The most recent addition to the Visalys family is a dual-curing core build-up material with unique active-connect-technology (ACT) to ensure a reliable bond with all common adhesives — without an additional activator.

The product was first unveiled at the most recent International Dental Show in Cologne, Germany. Visalys Core is the first core build-up material from Kettenbach. The fluoride-containing, dual-curing composite was developed for the fabrication of radiopaque core build-ups and core fillings and for cementing root posts.

The product incorporates ACT, which is unique in the market. This enables the material to bond actively with all common light-curing and dual-curing, single-step and multi-step adhesives, without an additional activator. The advantage for users is that it allows them to use the bonding agent they are used to — no matter whether it is a light-curing or dual-curing, a single- or multi-bottle system.

A firm foundation

According to the company, Visalys Core ensures easy and reliable handling with excellent positional stability. At the same time, it exhibits good flowability and low extrusion force. The compressive strength results in a stable monoblock and a secure bond.

Optional light-curing allows the procedure to be continued immediately, according to the company, and reliable self-curing provides for dependable strength even on the cavity floor and in root canals. Polishing characteristics ensure precise preparation; even without light-curing, the smear layer is minimal. The product is also free of bisphenol A and its derivatives.

Visalys Core is available in dentin and white shades in a 5-ml double syringe and in a 25-ml cartridge. For detailed information about Visalys Core, visit the Kettenbach website at www.kettenbachusa.com.

About Kettenbach LP

Kettenbach LP (Huntington Beach, Calif.) is the exclusive U.S. distributor for Kettenbach GmbH & Co. KG (Eschenburg, Germany). Founded by August Kettenbach in 1944, Kettenbach GmbH was created for the development and marketing of medical and dental products.

Today, the company is an international producer of dental impression materials and is also known in other surgical areas of medicine. Brands include Panasil VPS Impression Material, Identium VSXE Impression Material, Futar Bite Material, Silginat Alternative Alginate, Visalys Temp Material and Visalys Veneers.
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BruxZir® Solid Zirconia, BruxZir NOW®, Obsidian® Ceramic and Camouflage® NanoHybrid Composite are produced in our Irvine, California, facility.

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Nanofibers: Surpassing the gold standard of dental composites

By Nanova Biomaterials Staff

- NovaPro Flow (flowable) and NovaPro Fill (universal), fashioned by Nanova Biomaterials, are the first and only commercial dental composites reinforced by nanofibers, according to the company.

Why does Nanova use nanofibers in its composites instead of only nanoparticles like in other composites?

High strength, great handling properties and uncompromised esthetics are only some of the reasons these patent-pending nanofibers are the wave of the future in dental devices, according to the company. These hydroxyapatite nanofibers — manufactured at the company’s Columbia, Mo., headquarters — are composed of a mineral found in nature: calcium phosphate.

The trait that makes nanofibers so unique is the composition. They are made of calcium phosphate, the same structure as teeth and bone — a hard, inorganic mineral in a soft, organic matrix.

For example, the enamel of a tooth is made up of high-volume, needle-like mineral crystals (approximately 15-20 nanometers thick and 1,000 nanometers long) in a small-volume, soft-protein matrix. Bone and dentin are made up of plate-like crystals (approximately 2-4 nanometers thick and up to 100 nanometers long) embedded in a collagen-rich protein matrix.

By comparison, the nanofibers have a thickness of less than 100 nanometers in diameter, or 1,000 times smaller than a human hair. Not only are they made of the same composition as the tooth they are restoring, providing a natural look, but this nanoscale size also provides unsurpassed strength. The strength found in nanofibers is because of its one-dimensional nature and large surface area. If you apply a shear force to a group of nanoparticles, it is easy for the particles to slide by each other. On the other hand, a fiber has a solid connection that is stronger to resist bending, shear and tensile forces. Similar to rebar-reinforced concrete, these fibers add sturdiness to the composite by forming a framework.

In comparison, dental glass or ceramic particles typically found in other dental composites have a tensile strength of approximately 50 MPa, which does not adequately reinforce a composite, causing repeat procedures on many patients.

According to the Griffith theory discovered during World War I, it was found that needle-like mineral crystals could reach their theoretical strength when their diameters are in nanoscale. Microscopic flaws cause a material to fail, so by creating a nanoscale fiber, flaws are limited, providing the ability to reach the material's maximum strength.

Nanova chose to produce this highest level of strength while still allowing the fibers the mobility of bending without breaking. In addition, nano-scaled mineral crystals are not sensitive to cracks or stress concentration, which will degrade the material in the composite over time. This high strength and low sensitivity to cracks are the advantages provided by the nanofiber reinforced NovaPro composite line, according to the company.

Why trust the quality of your work to any other composite?

Announcing the availability of DEXIS for Dentrix Ascend

New cloud-based imaging solution to help users enhance digital clinical workflows

By Henry Schein Staff

- Henry Schein Practice Solutions, the U.S. practice solutions business of Henry Schein Inc., has announced the availability of DEXIS™ for Dentrix Ascend®.

DEXIS for Dentrix Ascend is a cloud-based imaging solution built exclusively for Dentrix Ascend to help capture and store images to the cloud, eliminating the need for additional digital imaging software and automating daily procedures, such as insurance billing, to enhance efficiency and productivity in the practice.

The software, initially available to users in North America, offers practitioners four key benefits, including seamless integration with Dentrix Ascend, enhanced digital workflow, quick access to images from the cloud and automatic upgrades and backups that reduce the need for maintenance and hardware. In addition, practices no longer need to leave Dentrix Ascend and open a separate application to capture, store and manipulate images.

With the cloud-based system, patient X-rays and intraoral images are available to all authorized devices and users on the system from any location, saving time for clinical procedures.

“DEXIS for Dentrix Ascend is another example of Henry Schein’s commitment to providing digital solutions that improve our customer’s practice workflow so they can focus on providing better clinical care to patients,” said Rhett Burnham, vice president, product management. “Working with DEXIS, we were able to build the imaging features directly into Dentrix Ascend so critical tasks are automated, helping practitioners maintain patient clinical history and improve insurance and billing workflow.”

The cloud-based system captures original digital images and uploads them (not a copy) with virtually no loss of quality, thanks to a compression algorithm that provides fast upload speeds to help maintain image quality. Once in the cloud, the images can be edited using a variety of tools, including filters, annotation and density reading.

“DEXIS for Dentrix Ascend has helped make our practice’s insurance billing more efficient. I also really like having the ability to remotely view, with clarity, an X-ray from anywhere when consulting with patients or colleagues,” said Dr. Mau Nguyen, Newport Commons Dental Care.
NEW! Visalys® Core – Secure core build-up for high stability.

Visalys® Core is a fluoride-containing, dual-curing composite, developed for the fabrication of radiopaque core build-ups and core fillings and for cementing root posts. The product incorporates Active-Connect-Technology (ACT), which is unique in the market. This enables the material to bond actively with popularly used light-curing and dual-curing, single-step and multi-step adhesives, without an additional activator. The advantage for users is that it allows them to use the bonding agent they are used to – no matter whether it is a light-curing or dual-curing, a single- or multi-bottle system. Call 877-532-2123 direct to place an order.

Visit us at the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting ▶ Booth #1144
Thoughts about how not to interrupt your practice

By Martin Goldstein, DMD, FAGD

It was with eyes wide open that I observed my partner scramble to piece together a makeshift version of his everyday loupes and light combination.

His mainstay set had succumbed to everyday wear and tear and was making it hard for him to see what he was doing. While he did manage to scrounge up some older parts and make a go of it while newer parts and pieces were ordered, it made me think: Could I reliably operate at this point in my career without my loupes and proper illumination?

It didn’t take more than a second to realize that if my loupes went on the fritz, from dropping or bumping or whatever other malady could be inflicted upon them, I would be shut down until further notice. That is, unless I had cleverly planned for that someday occurrence and made it a point to order a back-up set.

No, this is not an extravagance.

Think about our other tools. Our compressors that drive our handpieces typically have dual heads that would allow for one engine to drive the system if the other failed. Even our high-speed evacuation systems have fail-safe mechanisms.

We also have two handpieces at our disposal, knowing that if one line went down, we could still manage.

Redundancy in our everyday operations is what allows us to run uninterrupted in most cases. There are two entities that can, however, bring our business, not to mention the operator’s ability to clearly see what his dental assignments are for the day. Say what?

The second: If you’ve been working with the aid of loupes for as many years as I have, you are likely aware that doing responsible dentistry is impossible without having quality magnification at your disposal. No “if’s, and’s or but’s” on that one. I’m sure you get the point here.

A do-it-yourself mouthguard

Keystone Industries, a U.S.-based company that manufacturers some of the world’s top mouthguard products, has officially launched the latest item in its Pro-Form Mouthguard line — the PF2 mouthguard.

Unlike laminated mouthguard products that require a dentist to custom fit it to the patient, the PF2 mouthguard is a do-it-yourself guard that gives the best custom fit possible without taking impressions of the teeth.

With the elimination of dentist appointments and impressions, the price of this guard is significantly lower than custom-fit mouthguards while still providing high-impact protection, according to Keystone. The PF2’s unique design allows it to be re-fit by the user multiple times.

“Being a leader in this field means we need to set the bar high for new products and innovation,” said Michael Prozzillo, Keystone Industries vice president of sales. “The PF2 will change the way athletes buy mouthguards and also how the dentist sells them.”

The suggested retail of the PF2 mouthguard is $38, and it is available in either black or white. Keystone has stated there will be bulk purchasing available in the near future. Multiple color options will also be available, similar to the Pro-Form line of colors.

“You just won’t be able to get ahold of another mouthguard that can be custom fit in under a minute and provide the same beneficial features,” said Derek Keene, vice president of marketing and product development for Keystone Industries. “We’re excited to watch PF2 take off and provide significant value to our customers and athletes across the country.”

To keep up to date on PF2 and Keystone announcements, please visit www.keystoneindustries.com and follow the company on all social media platforms.

About Keystone Industries

Keystone Industries, a privately held company founded in 1908, has maintained a reputation for producing high-tech dental products in both the operatory and laboratory realms. The company asserts its dedication is driven by the need to provide customers with the finest quality materials while developing products that meet and surpass customer expectations.
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Dental isolation is one of the most common and ongoing challenges in dentistry. The mouth is a difficult environment in which to work. It is wet and dark, the tongue is in the way, and there is the added humidity of breath, which all make dentistry more difficult.

Proper dental isolation and moisture control are two often overlooked factors that can affect the longevity of dental work — especially with today’s advanced techniques and materials.

Leading dental isolation methods have long been the rubber dam — or manual suction and retraction with the aid of cotton rolls and dry angles. Both of these methods are time and labor intensive, and not particularly pleasant for the patient.

Enter Isolite Systems. Its dental isolation systems deliver an isolated, humidity- and moisture-free working field as dry as the rubber dam but with significant advantages, including better visibility, greater access, improved patient safety and a leap forward in comfort. Plus, it allows dentists to work in two quadrants at a time.

The key to the technology is the “Isolation Mouthpiece.” Compatible with Isolite’s full line of products, the mouthpiece is the heart of the system. It is specifically designed and engineered around the anatomy and morphology of the mouth to accommodate every patient, from children to the elderly.

The single-use Isolation Mouthpieces are now available in six sizes and position in seconds to provide complete, comfortable tongue and cheek retraction while also shielding the airway to prevent inadvertent foreign body aspiration.

constructed out of a polymeric material that is softer than gingival tissue, the mouthpieces provide significant safety advantages, and their ease-of-use can boost your practice’s efficiency, results and patient satisfaction.

Isolite Systems provides three state-of-the-art product solutions for every practice, every operator: Isolite, illuminated dental isolation system; Isodry, a non-illuminated dental isolation; and the new Isovac, dental isolation adapter.

Using the Isolation Mouthpieces, all three dental isolation products isolate upper and lower quadrants simultaneously while providing continuous hands-free suction. This allows a positive experience where the patient no longer has the sensation of drowning in saliva/water during a procedure, and the practitioner can precisely control the amount of suction/humidity in the patient’s mouth.

Isolite Systems’ dental isolation is recommended for the majority of dental procedures where oral control and dental isolation in the working field is desired. It has been favorably reviewed by leading independent evaluators and is recommended for procedures where good isolation is critical to quality dental outcomes.

Visit the Isolite booth, No. 35, here at the Hinman Dental Meeting, or go online to www.isolitesystem.com.

The Isolite mouthpieces are now available in six patient friendly sizes. (Photos/Provided by Isolite Systems)
Perfectly fitting restorations with Planmeca FIT

By Planmeca Staff

The open Planmeca FIT™ system for chairside CAD/CAM provides dental clinics with a completely digital workflow. It integrates intraoral scanning, 3-D designing and chairside milling into one system, allowing clinics to treat patients in a single appointment.

Planmeca FIT offers all the necessary tools for designing perfectly fitting restorations within the first patient visit.

The Planmeca FIT system is comprised of three integrated steps—precise intraoral scanning, sophisticated 3-D designing and efficient chairside milling, according to the company. The system combines all workflow phases under one software platform, enabling access to all imaging and CAD/CAM work through the same interface.

The Planmeca PlanScan® intraoral scanner can be integrated with any digital Planmeca dental unit. It can be used just like any other instrument and easily shared between different users. The scanner can be controlled from the dental unit foot control, leaving the user’s hands free for scanning and patient treatment at all times. Live scanning data can be constantly accessed from a dental unit’s tablet device, while sound guidance further ensures optimal data capture.

The Planmeca PlanCAD® Easy design software is ideal for a wide range of prosthetics planning. It provides the perfect tools for sophisticated 3-D designing at dental clinics, according to the company, ensuring the precise placement of restorations. Completed designs can either be sent to a lab in an open STL file format or manufactured on-site with the Planmeca PlanMill® 40 milling unit. Packed with refined power, the unit produces restorations from a large selection of materials, exactly according to the design.

All steps of the Planmeca FIT workflow are easily controlled and accessed through the Planmeca Romexis® software platform. Planmeca Romexis is the brains behind the Planmeca ecosystem and assures that the Planmeca FIT system always runs seamlessly. In addition, the software provides remote real-time usage information on the Planmeca PlanMill 40 milling unit, allowing clinics to locate resources and monitor ongoing milling processes.

Planmeca FIT is a completely streamlined and integrated approach to high-quality dental care. According to the company, it helps clinics utilize their resources to the fullest and treat more patients in a shorter period of time. Instead of two appointments, patients can be treated in one visit—without requiring temporary crowns or physical dental models.

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No More Compromise!
Revolutionizing local anesthetic delivery: A shot patient and practitioners can love

Now buffering can be done with the simple twist of a knob

By Anutra Staff

“I didn’t even know you gave me a shot,” Barb said as Dr. Kelly picked up his handpiece and went to work immediately.

For decades, the idea of getting a dental injection has terrified patients. Quite frankly, the uncertainty, unpredictability and long onset time of local anesthetic equally terrifies the practitioner.

The Anutra Local Anesthetic Delivery System redefines local anesthetic delivery, according to the company. It enhances patient experience and comfort while transforming a practitioner’s efficiency and profitability as well as the profundity and predictability of local anesthetic.

Buffering is an age-old science that has been used in the medical community for decades. Buffering is simply taking something acidic and mixing it with something more basic to neutralize the acid. So why does this matter in dentistry?

Lidocaine with epinephrine has a low pH, meaning it is extremely acidic. In fact, its pH is close to that of citric acid, which is found in limes and lemons. Could you imagine injecting lemon juice into someone’s mouth? We simply would not do that.

Much of the burning and stinging sensation comes from the fact that local anesthetic is very acidic. The Anutra Local Anesthetic Delivery System makes buffering simple. By loading an Anutra Cassette at the beginning of the week, clinicians can simply buffer anesthetic for every patient by twisting the knob on the Anutra Dispenser. It could not be easier.

What adds to the amazing power of buffered anesthetic is a topical effect that is a result of a CO2 microbubble that is formed when local anesthetic is mixed with sodium bicarbonate.

Many practitioners report dropping a small amount on the mucosa prior to injecting for a very powerful topical anesthetic.

Not only is patient comfort increased with buffered anesthetic, a practitioner’s efficiency is dramatically optimized. Because buffered anesthetic is raised to physiologic pH, the anesthetic crosses the nerve membrane more readily, meaning a patient can reach pulpal anesthesia in as little as two minutes, even with blocks.

Additionally, anywhere from 4,000 to 6,000 times the active molecules of anesthetic will cross the nerve membrane, making it more profound than normal lidocaine, as well as increasing the predictability that a patient will get numb the first time, even on those hard-to-numb patients.

Not only does the Anutra Local Anesthetic Delivery System provide a simplistic platform for you to buffer in your practice, it also introduces the first-known FDA approved, multidose, one-handed aspiration syringe that is fully disposable.

So what does that mean? It means you can hold up to 6 milliliters of anesthetic in one single syringe. No need to reload cartridges — one syringe can hold the equivalent of at least three traditional 1.8 mL dental cartridges.

With a cost point that is affordable, a revolutionary new syringe, a simplistic dosing system and a long shelf life, the Anutra Local Anesthetic is a no-brainer for every dental practice, according to the company.

AIR-FREE

Medidenta introduces the first 90-degree, rear-venting, high-speed handpiece, delivering all the power you need without allowing any air into the oral cavity.

The new Air-Free technology has advantages in many different fields by reducing the patient’s sensitivity. Whether it be orthodontics, pediatrics, oral surgery, endodontics or even general use, Medidenta asserts the Air-Free will be a great addition to your opera-tory.

It is also available in a 45-degree angulated head.

Here in Atlanta

To learn more about the Anutra Local Anesthetic Delivery System, stop by the booth, No. 2325.

Medidenta introduces the first 90-degree, rear-venting, high-speed handpiece, delivering all the power you need without allowing any air into the oral cavity.

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