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.

Here at ICOI

To see the Ellman radiosurgery unit for yourself, check out the booth, No. 401, in the exhibit hall.

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 electrosurgery units. Another benefit is I do not have to “ground” my patients prior to using the technology. With my Ellman unit, I can cauterize bleeding vessels larger than 0.3 mm whereas my laser will only cauterize vessels smaller than 0.3 mm. Also with the Ellman unit, I have a choice of multiple tips that can be used in different circumstances and locations of the mouth and can also be bent for more customized access.

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 in the exhibit hall.
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Courtesy: Michael J. Will, MD, DDS, FACS

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Offering 360-degree bone preservation even in sloped ridge situations

By DENTSPLY Implants Staff

It is well-documented that crestal bone resorbs after tooth extraction or tooth loss. Often resorption is pronounced on the buccal side, resulting in a lingual-to-buccal sloped ridge. This situation occurs even if a standard implant is immediately placed in the extraction socket.

Because bone-to-implant support is three-dimensional, it is important to have marginal bone support around the entire implant. Preserving the buccal and lingual marginal bone in a sloped ridge situation will also positively influence mesial and distal marginal bone levels, which optimizes soft-tissue esthetics.

The OsseoSpeed Profile EV is a unique implant specially designed to follow the existing bone in sloped ridge situations, maintaining soft-tissue esthetics and helping to reduce the need for bone augmentation, DENTSPLY asserts.

The OsseoSpeed Profile EV offers a number of features, according to the company.

• Flexibility through a wide range of implant options: Available in straight and conical implant designs in 8–17 mm lengths.

• Simplicity of a one-position-only* placement of all indexed components: The unique one-position-only placement for ATLANTIS patient-specific abutments and indexed prefabricated abutments can make the treatment procedure simple and predictable.

• Self-guiding* impression components for an accurate and predictable workflow: This design provides a time-efficient installation procedure and a predictable workflow between the clinician and dental technician.

• Supported by a full range of digital solutions: Digital solutions available from the planning to the final restoration, offering the possibility of working with a completely digital workflow.

For more information, visit www.jointheev.com.

* Patent pending
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Renovix Guided Healing Collagen Membrane ideal for grafting procedures

Ridge augmentation and sinus lifts are easier and more predictable with this product, reviewers say

By Salvin Dental Staff

- The Renovix® Guided Healing Collagen Membrane from Salvin Dental is getting excellent reviews from doctors using it for pre-implant grafting procedures including socket preservation, ridge augmentation and sinus lifts.

- It combines the ability to drape and conform to the specific anatomy of a grafted defect, while maintaining structural integrity and elasticity.

- A combination of ideal handling characteristics helps to make grafting procedures easier and more predictable, the company says.

- It comes in selecting the perfect membrane for guided bone and tissue regeneration, there are many choices. Yet most clinicians are still looking for the ideal barrier that combines the best handling and performance characteristics.

- Some collagen membranes remain stiff even after being hydrated, making it difficult to place over a ridge and conform to the shape of the defect. Other membranes have no memory and resemble wet tissue paper, making it extremely difficult to manipulate during surgery.

- Renovix was originally created for use in repairing pediatric cardiac defects. Cardiac surgeons needed a resorbable membrane to protect the surgical site without migration and having it cross-linked in a way that significantly reduced the chance of an inflammatory response.

- Based on these specific requests, the material used for Renovix was developed.

- Renovix is fabricated from Type I porcine collagen, known to be one of the purest forms of collagen available, the company asserts.

- It is cross-linked with polysaccharide, a naturally occurring sugar, with excellent biocompatibility. The combined performance and handling characteristics of this membrane, along with specific requests from many implant specialists, encouraged Salvin Dental to introduce Renovix for guided bone-regeneration procedures.

- Case reports and clinical documentation are an important part of the decision process when determining how regenerative products will perform.

- Steve Wallace, DDS, MHS, from Wilmington, N.C., has used Renovix in more than 25 cases as a guided regeneration barrier after extraction and grafting of maxillary 1st and 2nd molars in preparation for implant placement.

- Wallace made the following statement detailing his clinical experience with Renovix: “Primary flap closure over maxillary molar extraction sites is always difficult to achieve. I have been using Renovix as my barrier over these grafted sites to exclude soft-tissue ingrowth. I have seen that Renovix remains intact up to 13 weeks and consistently promotes soft-tissue closure over it with minimal inflammation.”

- When it is first removed from its sterile packaging, Renovix is transparent and fairly rigid. Once hydrated, Renovix becomes opaque, making it easy to identify when brought into the surgical field, and it is very easy to manipulate.

- Clinicians have said that they get their best results when trimming it after it has been hydrated, the company says.

- Renovix is very thin, yet has remarkable tensile strength. This characteristic provides several clinical advantages.

- First and foremost, it can easily be tucked or sutured to the surgical site if needed. Next, it can be tucked into small tunnel incisions using a microperiosteal elevator without concern that the instrument will easily puncture through the membrane.

- Finally, the fact that Renovix is thin and resilient enables the clinician to elevate smaller flaps, leaving more of the periosteum and blood supply undisturbed, for faster healing and less patient discomfort, according to Salvin Dental.

- James Woodyard, DMD, MS, from Newburgh, Ind., made the following statement regarding his experience with Renovix: “The thinness and excellent tensile strength of Renovix allows me to create small tunnel incisions and tuck it under the tissue without tearing the membrane. With thicker membranes that I used in the past, I had to create large full thickness flaps, and many of the other thin membranes had a tendency to tear when I tried to tuck them.

- When I decrease the size of the flap elevated and exposure of bone, I decrease post-operative swelling, pain, bone loss and discomfort for the patient. The less invasive I can be, the less complications I have. I am extremely pleased with the results that I have seen when using Renovix.”

- Renovix is available in three different sizes and is individually packaged sterile for immediate use.

- Many doctors like the 15 x 25 mm size because it will typically fully cover a grafted extraction socket from the buccal to the opposing lingual plate, maintaining full coverage over the ridge, without having to select a larger size.

- This unique size reduces waste and saves money by often eliminating the need to select the next larger size, the company says.

- If you would like more information about Renovix or would like to give it a try, please see the team of experts at the Salvin Dental booth.

- You may also visit www.salvin.com or speak to a sales representative at (800) 535-6566.
The Hahn Tapered Implant: 45 years in the making

By Keith Peters, Contributing Editor, Inclusive magazine

Since placing his first implant nearly 45 years ago, Dr. Jack Hahn has spent much of his career as an implantologist thinking of ways to make treatment more accessible to the practitioner as well as the patient.

Implant design has improved dramatically during that time, with Hahn spearheading key innovations that have helped make implant therapy the essential mode of dental treatment it is today. From the endosseous blade-form implant he helped Miter Inc. develop in 1978 to the newly released Hahn® Tapered Implant, Hahn’s efforts have been driven by the desire to continually improve in order to make treatment simpler and more predictable.

“The easier we make it to position the implant for a restoration that looks like a natural tooth, the better results we’ll have,” Hahn said in a recent interview.

It was this line of thinking that inspired Hahn’s idea for the first tapered implant. After a long day that included several cases in which he had difficulty placing parallel-walled implants in the anatomically restricted space of the anterior maxilla, Hahn had an epiphany: “The tooth I was replacing was taper-shaped, so why was I putting in a square peg?” That very night, he sketched out the concept.

Steve Hurson, former chief scientist for Nobel Biocare, has said of this industry-changing innovation: “Dr. Hahn identified a need for an implant with a narrower apex, which would achieve higher primary stability in soft bone. The concept was to have an implant design that would have the tapered shape of a tooth root, resulting in a system with outstanding predictability.”

In essence, this was an extension of the philosophy that inspired the design of the machined collar Hahn helped Steri-Oss develop. “By designing a 4 mm machined collar that was more like the neck of a natural tooth root, we were able to prevent crestal bone loss and improve outcomes,” Hahn said.

This drive to constantly improve has not always been met with open arms. In fact, his role with Steri-Oss was borne of a disagreement with Miter Inc.

“The Titanodont implant had some problems, including an abutment attachment that lost its retention after a few years and fins that would become exposed if there was any crestal bone loss. So I proposed a machined collar with a new prosthetic connection,” Hahn said. “They said they couldn’t do it because it would be too expensive to change the machinery. I didn’t want to have my name associated with the implant any longer if they weren’t going to correct the problems.”

This led Hahn to other endeavors, including his role with Steri-Oss and, eventually, Nobel Biocare.

After the NobelReplace® tapered implant system launched in 1997, Hahn continued placing and restoring implants, completing thousands of cases. This experience afforded clinical observations that would serve as the basis for a new implant design that Hahn considers his best.

“I came to Nobel with my idea for a new implant in 2012, conceptual engineering drawings in hand, and they said, ‘Replace is so successful; why change now?’”

Hahn said he replied: “Apple has become one of the most successful companies in history by constantly innovating. Why shouldn’t we do the same in dental implants?”

Hahn continued, “I had been placing implants for decades, and there were still problems we could solve with a new design. I had this implant that would be easier for doctors to place, with a simpler drilling protocol and a thread design that would allow for efficient placement and a high degree of primary stability.”

Wanting to take his design concept to the next level, Hahn began pursuing alternatives, an effort that eventually led him to Glidewell Laboratories.

“I knew a lot of the Glidewell people from my days at Steri-Oss and Nobel, and they were happy to meet with me,” he said.

The resulting partnership culminated in the recent launch of the Hahn Tapered Implant System, and Hahn said he couldn’t be happier with the results.

“When I first visited their facilities, it was immediately apparent that their manufacturing capabilities are state-of-the-art,” he said. “Their engineering team has the technology and know-how to bring design concepts to life with astonishing speed and precision, and their expertise on the prosthetic side of implant dentistry has been invaluable in creating an implant that is as simple to restore as it is to place.”

With a career that speaks volumes on the importance of continual innovation, Hahn said he’s proud to have his name on an implant that contributes to the forward progression of implant dentistry while reducing the cost of treatment.

“The better we make implant design, the more accessible we can make implant dentistry to doctors so they can improve their practices and the quality of life of their patients,” he said.

Editor’s note: The Hahn Tapered Implant is a registered trademark of Glidewell Laboratories. NobelReplace is a registered trademark of Nobel Biocare.