



EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM

SEPA-DGI-DG PARO

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The prevention and treatment of peri-implant diseases takes on a new dimension

More than 400 participants from across Europe, with a notable presence of German and Spanish professionals, in an eminently practical format, with world-renowned speakers and live surgery that connected hundreds of users via streaming simultaneously. The SEPA-DGI-DG PARO European Symposium, held in Palma de Mallorca, was a success and is likely to be repeated.

The meeting – organized jointly by the Spanish Society of Periodontology (SEPA), the *German Association of Oral Implantology (DGI)*, and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parodontologie e.V (DG PARO)* – marked a turning point in the approach to peri-implant diseases. As event coordinators Adrián Guerrero (SEPA), Frank Schwarz (DGI), and Christof Dörfer (DG PARO) put it, *“the event has not disappointed and has exceeded all expectations.”* Some of the most outstanding world experts in the field of implant therapy were brought together, the figure of more than 400 attendees (from more than 15 countries) was reached, and all the available places in the five workshops that were held were filled days before the start of the event.

The various workshops and lectures enabled the reaching of a common conclusion which is that, in many cases, it is possible to avoid surgical treatment for peri-implantitis, provided that the patient is involved in the prevention and maintenance of their periodontal health and that the hygiene of the implants is supervised before, during, and after treatment.

In this context, particularly important lessons and advice were provided by some of the participating experts. Dr Antonio Liñares highlighted that *“Peri-implant diseases are very prevalent diseases in Spain, they are more aggressive than periodontitis, and non-surgical therapy is a successful option in many cases.”* Dr Mariano Sanz claimed que *“the prevention of peri-implantitis starts, necessarily, in first combatting mucositis.”* For his part, Dr Dennis Schaller pointed out that *“non-surgical therapy can be carried out throughout the process: from diagnosis to evaluation and additional therapy.”* In addition, Ausra Ramanauskaite recalled that *“generally, after three months, patients stop cleaning around their implants.”*

Regarding the non-surgical treatment of peri-implantitis, which was the focus of the session moderated by Dr José Nart, it was emphasised, for example, that *“the primary closure of a wound is a key factor for achieving success,”* according to Dr Stefan Fickl.

Overall, the similarities and main differences between periodontitis and peri-implantitis were reviewed at the Symposium, which also covered the challenges and advances in non-surgical therapy employed to treat peri-implantitis. In a similar way, the main challenges and developments in the field of

surgical therapy were analysed. Bone-reconstruction surgery in peri-implant defects was also a topic of debate, covering such aspects as the key biological processes and modifying factors from periodontal regeneration to the reconstruction of the peri-implant defect, the biomaterials that should be used in the reconstruction of peri-implant defects, and the surgical designs and techniques used in reconstructive therapy around peri-implant lesions. A round-table session explored in depth the reconstruction of soft tissues around implants. And the final session of the Symposium served to call attention to the prevention of peri-implant diseases, with a special reference to supportive periodontal treatment for the primary and secondary prevention of periodontal and peri-implant diseases, implant surgery aimed at the prevention of peri-implant diseases, and prosthetic designs directed towards the prevention of future peri-implant diseases.

One of the highlights of this international meeting was live surgery from Moscow, directed by Dr Ramón Gómez Meda, who performed surgery on a patient with multiple gingival recessions whom he treated by applying porcine tissue as an alternative to connective tissue. Dr Gómez Meda thus showed how the palatal harvesting of large connective-tissue grafts to treat these multiple recessions can be avoided. As well as arousing great interest in the event venue in Mallorca, this surgery was a success across Latin America, where it was transmitted via streaming, reaching more than 200 users simultaneously.

With hands on the mouth

Of particular interest and applicability to routine clinical practice were the knowledge and teaching that came out of the workshops. These approached such areas as the access flap, resective therapy and decontamination of the implant surface, regenerative surgery of peri-implant defects, soft-tissue augmentation around implants, reconstruction of the defect after the loss of the implant, and the use of Reconstructive Tissue Matrix.

Specifically, Dr. Juan Blanco (together with Cristina Carral and Olalla Argibay) led the workshop on the access flap, resective therapy, and decontamination of the implant surface. In their workshop, Dr Jan Derks and Dennis Schaller showed some novel aspects in regenerative surgery for peri-implant defects. The workshop led by Dr Michael Christgau focused on soft-tissue augmentation around implants. Dr Fouad Khoury probed the reconstruction of the defect after the loss of the implant, while Dr Gerhard Iglhaut presented Reconstructive Tissue Matrix, the next-generation material for soft-tissue augmentation.

Finally, the support received by SEPA's strategic partners should be highlighted. Leading companies collaborated in an active and direct way in the development of this international meeting: Biohorizons Camlog as the main sponsor, together with the contribution from Sanhigía BTI, Hu-Friedy, and EMS. In addition, Quintessence Publishing España was the main media partner of this European Symposium, which also had media-partner support from "*Maxillaris*", "*PIP*", and "*Odontólogos de Hoy*".