

Influence of Implantology on Conventional Prosthodontics in Korea



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Contents : The current trend of prosthodontic treatment in Korea is being focused on the dental implant and esthetic prosthodontics.

Implant dentistry in Korea has advanced rapidly in the last ten years.

Until the end of 1980's, blade type implants had been used, but nowadays they are disappearing from dental clinics and the root form implants are predominant in Korea. According to the implant sales analysis of one dental company in Korea, the monthly distribution of implant fixtures is around twelve hundred in 1996 and the number increased in 1997 but decreased in 1998 because of financial crisis in Asian countries.

Currently Branemark, 3i, ITI, Integral, SteriOss and IMZ systems are most commonly used and other systems including domestic implants are also available in Korea.

We analyzed two hundred and twelve patients who were treated with dental implants at our dental hospital. Four hundred and thirty two fixtures were implanted in the mandible and two hundred and forty were implanted in the maxilla. One hundred and fifty fixtures were implanted in fully edentulous patients, five hundred and twenty two for partially edentulous patients. Classification of implants according to shape was as follows : screw type - 57.4%, cylindrical type - 39.1%, hollow basket type - 3.5%.

The failure rate was 4.5% but the rate will increase a little with the elapse of time because the average period after delivery of implant prosthesis was less than 3 years.

Single tooth replacement must be taken into special consideration to prevent rotation. The system of single tooth restoration must have anti-rotational mechanism. The bite force in molar teeth is very heavy, we try to apply the system at restricted area, from premolars to premolars.

As mentioned above, the use of craniofacial implants for restoration of maxillofacial defects is increasing in Korea. In May of this year, we held the "2nd International Congress on Maxillofacial Prosthetics" in Seoul and more than 400 dentists and medical doctors who were interested in this field attended the congress from 23 countries.