

On the road to success

In the first of a six part series, **DR HANNAH CLARK** and **DR COLIN POCOCK** discuss their experiences as they attend the year-long *ITI Pathway 2010 – Foundation in Implant Dentistry with Concomitant Mentoring course*....

Module 1: 23rd & 24th March 2010

After attending the pre-course back in February and having had an early start travelling from Birmingham to the ITI (International Team for Implantology) Education Centre in Gatwick, we were extremely eager to brush up on our general prosthodontic and oral surgery skills and start our first day of dental implant training. And the ITI didn't disappoint. We were instantly impressed by the fantastic facilities, with spacious rooms for both the lectures and hands-on elements of the course.

The first hour of the morning session flew by with dynamic speakers, Charlotte Stilwell and Anthony Summerwill. We went straight into how to identify different case complexities – from straightforward through advanced to complex. The case examples were great and usefully displayed around the room. Immediately we found ourselves relating the learning

to potential cases we had identified in practice and were itching to get back to our patients to begin selecting cases.

Overall, we had a great day today, plenty of real life examples to keep us interested and, in particular, we enjoyed the afternoon exercise where we had to rank potential cases in order of complexity. Using the guidelines we learnt in the morning, we began to assess the cases to determine if they would be suitable first cases. Unfortunately, it rapidly became apparent that many of the potential cases we identified would fall into the advanced or complex categories and would therefore be unsuitable. It's not difficult for a seemingly straightforward single tooth implant case to fall into the complex category. So many criteria need to be met from medical status, bone volume, surgical access etc that we began to wonder if we'd ever find a single suitable case.

We looked at the statistics on smoking and implant success and failure rates. It didn't sound too bad when we were told that success rates of around 95 per cent in non-smokers fall to around 90 per cent in patients who smoke. However, put another way, this is actually double the failure rate in smokers! If we expect around 1 in 20 implants to fail in non-smokers but 1 in 10 to fail in patients who smoke, immediately the patient who is a smoker seems a lot less favourable selection for our first ever implant placement.

We were given a brochure detailing the mentors who will be offering close support during our first tentative steps to implant placement. The ITI goes to great lengths to clarify that its mentors

are all ITI Members or Fellows with many years of experience in implant dentistry and satisfy the criteria set out by the Team for mentoring newcomers to implant dentistry, including experience in training other dentists and undertaking ongoing personal training within the subject. It was also explained that the ITI only facilitate the introductions between mentor and mentee, the contract is between the two as the mentor is appropriately indemnified for implant therapy.

Bring on the next module (after we have done our homework on treatment planning). If you attend, remember to bring a big bag or a case on wheels to take all your folders and course notes home with you!

Reader enquiry: 80

About the Authors

Dr Hannah Clark BDS (Ncle) 1993. Hannah has worked full time in general dental practice gaining an insight into what patients are looking for in modern dental care. She has undergone further training and is certified in wrinkle softening techniques including the use of botulinum toxin and dermal fillers.



Dr Colin I. R. Pocock BDS (Sheff) 1998. Colin has recently completed Paul Tipton's Certificate course in Aesthetic Dentistry at the St Ann's Dental Education Centre, Manchester. During 2008, Colin completed advanced cosmetic dentistry training with Dr Larry Rosenthal from the USA.