

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

VIEWS ON DENTAL TOPICS & TRENDS

Guiding Contemporary Protocols for Implants

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THE PACE OF new developments in dental treatment concepts, techniques, technologies, and materials is simply breathtaking, continuously pushing the borders for our ultimate goal: the best possible care for our patients. Implant dentistry is quite likely the area with the most palpable and rapid developments, through minimally invasive surgical techniques, novel implant designs, new esthetic restorative materials, and innovative CAD/CAM technologies.

The single-tooth implant has become a very popular treatment option in the esthetic zone. While viewed by many as a rather simple procedure, to achieve optimal and long-term stable esthetic and functional success with dental implants may well be among the greatest challenges in dentistry. The main reason is that this success is not only dependent on perfectly blending the restoration with the existing dentition, but also on creating harmonious and healthy soft tissue support, the natural frame of any restoration. Especially around dental implants, where the soft tissue collar is quite different from the natural tooth, any deficiencies and resorptions are difficult to correct, but can severely damage the ultimate outcome. A careful and well-planned approach is therefore key to avoid mistakes from the very beginning.



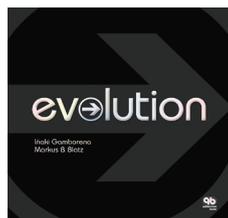
While the key to success lies in the very fine details, there is little detailed guidance in the dental literature to assist the clinician in achieving optimal long-lasting outcomes. The intention of our recently published book "evolution - Contemporary Protocols for Anterior Single-Tooth Implants" was to provide a very detailed, clinically oriented guide, to present a snapshot of current techniques and technologies, and introduce novel concepts for ultimate success based on the most current scientific evidence.

In the era of e-books and digital platforms, we still wanted to author a traditional paper-based book, presented, however, in a novel design

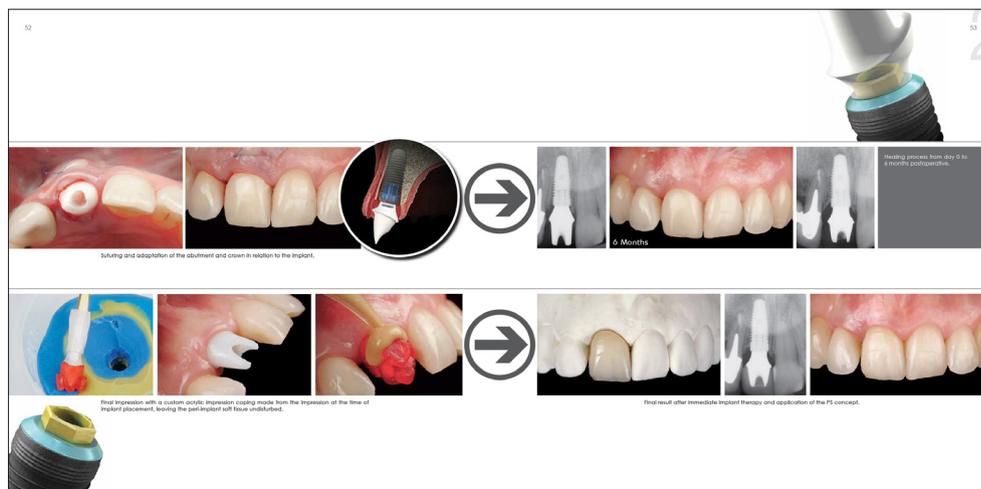
that recognizes the preferences of a visually oriented readership. Because the focus of this book is clinical technique, procedures are presented in a step-by-step format, with the explanatory text in immediate proximity. One could also view them as video clips played in adjustable slow motion to allow readers to follow every step at their own pace and to stop whenever they feel necessary, to review and observe the small details that make the difference between failure and success.

Evidence-based dentistry has become a major part of the clinical decision-making process, gaining relevant scientific information from high-level clinical trials and systematic literature reviews. Instead of filling pages with narrative literature reviews, we targeted key topics and presented the findings of our in-depth literature searches in the various "research" sections throughout the book in a most concise and relevant manner.

The goal of this lavishly illustrated book was to provide a clear understanding of the fundamental concepts of implant selection and placement in the esthetic zone. Most importantly, it explains optimized restorative protocols in a step-by-step manner and demonstrates the importance of soft tissue esthetics and minimally invasive surgical techniques. ■



"evolution: Contemporary Protocols for Anterior Single-Tooth Implants" by Drs. Inaki Gamborena and Markus B. Blatz has been translated into eight languages and is among the top selling titles by Quintessence Publishing, Inc.



RIGHT: Sample pages from "evolution," which visualize step-by-step procedures.