



Lecture Abstract

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Main implantological topics:

- Treatment planning for tooth retention or removal
- Periodontal, restorative, endodontic and functional considerations in tooth retention or tooth removal

Professional skills:

- Board certified specialist in endodontics
- Consultant editor, International Journal of Endodontics
- Twenty-seven years of full-time teaching at 3 major universities and 40 years of endodontic practice

Choosing the pathway to success - Endodontology vs. Implantology

Tooth retention for all patients is highly desirable. With thorough and careful treatment planning, a high percentage of teeth can be retained in symptom-free function for long periods of time. This often requires a coordinated effort from periodontal, endodontic, orthodontic and restorative standpoints. However, there are teeth that are not amenable to this integrated effort and the patient would be best served with tooth removal and replacement considering a wide variety of choices. One of these choices is the placement of an implant. Of significance is the fact that implants are primarily designed to replace missing teeth "and not teeth", whereas endodontic treatment is aimed to eliminate or prevent a disease process, that being apical periodontitis. These considerations must be taken first and foremost during the treatment planning phase of contemporary, evidence-based dental care. All reasonable efforts should be made at tooth retention as opposed to indiscriminate extraction and replacement. Efforts at crown lengthening, tooth resection, revision of root canal treatments, tooth extrusions and periapical surgery are all viable treatment considerations. However, this requires an astute assessment of the uniqueness of each case, with an individualized treatment plan. This presentation will address the rationale and the means for tooth retention along with a perspective on when tooth removal may be in the patient's best interest.