



Dr. Leo Malin lectures on his Implant expertise at the IACA and LVI.

IMPLANTS Made Easy

In the last few years, a “Perfect Storm” of technology and clinical processes have made dental implants as easy as possible.

Over the years I have trained thousands of dentists and lectured around the world on implants. I have also attended international implant trainings and symposiums with some of the greatest known subject matter experts in the field. I have noticed a common denominator when it comes to implants and the integration of implants for the general dentist... apprehension. And I understand why. Let's face it, many of the “experts” like to “show off” and perhaps show extreme cases and some of these can be intimidating to say the least. But I also understand that implants can be hard to do, they can fail, they can cause potential collateral damage if placed incorrectly and in dental school we were taught to refer implants out. Not to mention it can be expensive to get set up to do implants, then the actual restorative cost can be unknown until you get a lab bill. These are some major hurdles to overcome. No wonder there is so much apprehension to get started placing implants! Most dentists feel it is best not to deal with the “problems” of implants and let their specialist continue to do the implants.

However, in the last few years, a “Perfect Storm” of technology and clinical processes has made dental implants as easy as possible. The first step of making

implants easy for the general dentist is case selection. I am sure many of you have heard of the 80-20 rule. The same principals can apply here. 20% of the cases cause 80% of the problems. When starting implants it is important to know what these cases are and outsource them! Focus on the other 80% of cases, and even better, select half the cases that are most predictable and your implant confidence will really take off!

Over the years implant processes have changed as well. The most brilliant minds and educators are amazing at breaking down a problem into its simplest and most basic form and create a process to solve the problem. Today there are so many great, simple and proven implant processes that are so “easy” when combined with today's technology. And it continues to evolve. Consider the implant surgical guide as an example. A new technology that took the uncertainty out of implants, or what I like to call “pucker factor!” What a breakthrough! However, there were still many steps: learning new complicated software, manual measurements with the guide, and honestly a few areas where a clinician could inadvertently fail due to all the steps. However new in 2014, this has been boiled down to 2 easy steps:



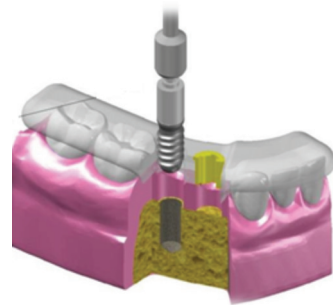
STEP 1

A custom fit guide has exact orientation and thickness for the desired implant exactly matched to the patient's anatomy for a perfect fit.

Place surgical guide in mouth, insert tissue punch and remove tissue.

A new "insertable" drill is placed in a reducer that fits in the guide with remanufactured stops based on the 3D image and plan.

Press the foot pedal and drill until the drill stop hits the guide, and proper drill depth is achieved. (Yes that is correct, a simple 1 to 2 drill sequence!)



STEP 2

Remove the guide, drill and reducer.

Place the implant driver into the hand piece and attach implant to the driver.

Insert the implant guide back into the mouth and drive in implant through surgical guide and insert the implant until the stop hits the guide.

The stop disengages the driver, remove the guide, place your healing cap and you are done!

Now that is not the typical "Surgery!"

- No large flap and bloody mess
- No depth measurement required at time of surgery
- Implant placed through surgical guide for proper placement orientation and depth
- Minimal Manufacturer Tools required for placement
- Simple - Fast - Accurate
- Ability to create custom abutments to be placed at time of surgery

This is just one of the technology process breakthroughs in the "perfect storm."

This process has matured and is truly now ready for mass integration to make implants easy. You may be thinking you still need a \$150-200,000 3D imaging machine to make this happen and a CAD/CAM computer software to make this guide. Though that is an option, all this can be outsourced for a very reasonable fee. Many imaging centers and practices with 3D technology offer patient scans for \$200-\$300. Additionally you do not even need software. Third parties can now take that scan, you tell them what implant you prefer to use, how you would like it placed and they can do a real-time screen share with you as you watch them move and position the implant precisely the way you want it orientated. No learning software! Just tell them how you want it positioned and sign off. All that for approximately \$25 per implant site. From this information you can now get a custom made guide for \$150-\$400 to utilize the process above.

Again, this is just one of the technology process breakthroughs in the "perfect storm." Technology has also dramatically reduced the presence of two MAJOR nemesis in implant dentistry: BACTERIA & PRESSURE. I understand you cannot eliminate these factors, but what you can do is eliminate the processes and products that harbor them. When you take bacteria and pressure out of the implant dentistry equation and use the proper processes and products, case select the simpler implant cases and utilize technology to guide you and avoid perforations and invading vital structures, you just made implants easy!

Again, there are MANY more components of the "perfect storm" that make implants easy. Recent innovations make extractions and grafting easy as well. I could go on, but the point is what a perfect time to update your implant training and get going. Today's technology has made implants easy, the costs are down and the baby boomers are ready for a long term solution. BTW, did I mention it is VERY profitable as well!

Upcoming Implant Course Dates

Surgery 1-Implant Foundation • April 9-11 • September 17-19

Surgery 2-Implant Integration • October 6-8

Surgery 3-Live Patient & Case Planning • May 7-9 • October 9-11

Comprehensive Implant Restorative • June 2-4

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