

Focus on aesthetics, soft tissues and digital technologies

The LASAK dental company recently invited guests to its 25th Implantology Conference, held in the Czech capital of Prague on 21st April. The conference is aimed at practitioners from the fields of implantology and oral and maxillofacial surgery. The top-class lecture programme in 2023 focused on static navigation and implant-supported screw-retained dentures. In the following interview, LASAK's Managing Director, Jakub Strnad, looks back on 25 years of the conference and, at the same time, reviews the highlights of this year's conference.

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Mr Strnad, What constant developments has the implantology conference undergone in 25 years?

At the beginning of the 1990s, all the modern trends in dental surgery began to flow into the Czech Republic, and modern dental implantology was just beginning in our country. As one of the first manufacturers of modern dental implants in the Czech Republic, we wanted to create a space where the founders and pioneers of modern dental implantology could meet with interested parties and share their knowledge and experience.

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In its early years, our implantology conference was the only one in the field of implantology. Over time, as implant dentistry became more popular, the number of events in the field also increased. From the very beginning, we also made an effort to invite speakers from abroad so that they could also bring the latest trends to us and raise the professional discussion to an international level. We still regard our implantology conference as a meeting place for experts in implantology. In earlier years, the focus was mainly on technical things – the implant surface, implant shape, various GBR techniques, etc. In recent years, the focus has been more on aesthetics, soft tissue and digital technologies.

LASAK's Managing Director Jakub Strnad.



Thus, we always invite foreign speakers with the latest scientific findings or interesting news from the field of dental technology. We always emphasize bringing practical information to the audience and creating an interesting, attractive programme. However, the information shared during the lectures does not always align with our recommendations. The more controversial it is, the livelier the discussions become.

In conjunction with this year's focus topics of the conference, LASAK has placed particular emphasis on the PrimeLOC Attachment System. What distinguishes this system from the others, and how does it simplify everyday life for the implantologist?

In our opinion, the most significant benefit is to be found in the use of the PrimeLOC angled attachments for our narrow 2.9 mm diameter BioniQ® implants, which enable fast and cost-efficient restoration in those elderly and very elderly patients with a narrow alveolar bone. As the ageing of society becomes a more significant issue, new and effective ways of treating the enlarged target group of old-aged patients must also be sought. In the past, LASAK only offered straight attachments for hybrid restorations, and if there were major divergences between the implants, the divergences could only be corrected with extended retention inserts. The angled attachments make restoring divergent implants easier and more reliable. It has been shown that the parallelism of the anchoring elements is the factor that has the most significant influence on the longevity and abrasion of the retention elements and the comfort of the patient. The hard coating of the PrimeLOC attachments, which shows reduced plaque affinity compared to titanium, and the retention inserts made of high-performance plastic with outstanding resistance to liquids are also considered additional benefits. Moreover, we also have the German company MEDEALIS, the manufacturer of these products, as a stable and reliable partner which can react flexibly to our needs.

How has the conference always managed to reflect developments in implantology in a practical way for the participants?

LASAK has clients among dentists as well as dental technicians both in the Czech Republic and abroad. There are some international trends and local differences. It is very interesting to see and hear how our clients from different parts of the world share their experiences with each other at our implantology conference. Most of the speakers are users of our products. Everyone likes to hear tips and tricks on how to perfect their work or avoid some problems.

What are the advantages of navigated implantology, especially in prosthetics, and why is the focus specifically on these two topics this year?

Patients' demands for treatment to be as quick and painless as possible are increasing.

Not seen enough yet?

Here' are some more
Pictures

Then, of course, the patients also want to get the most attractive smile possible and a flawless service for the money spent. The long-term functional and highly aesthetic result is an important issue. The most significant advantage of navigated implantology is that the entire treatment can be conveniently planned step by step in advance and carried out without any major surprises, thanks to digital 3D data.

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The collaboration of the dental technician with the dentist is easier and faster, thanks to digital data. The resulting prosthetic treatment can be planned optimally or almost optimally. The restoration should be made at the implant position, as far as it is possible to do so. Many people are now talking about the fact that digitalization simplifies the work for the dental laboratory and that the amount of dental restorations that have had to be corrected after examination of the patient's mouth has decreased. Another point is that the denture can be planned in the virtual environment so that the work with the denture is not unnecessarily complicated for the laboratory. The more units the denture has, the more mistakes can be done, making the tooth replacement less precise. It must also be taken into consideration that there might also be a correction of the dentures or implants later on. When the implant is placed in the previously planned position, the patient can immediately undergo tooth restoration using the previously planned and fabricated provisional prosthesis if the situation allows. The patient can, therefore, leave the practice immediately with the demonstrably good result of their treatment.

From a surgical point of view, the most significant advantage is that even patients in borderline situations can be treated in comfort. The dentist can see the situation in the patient's mouth better thanks to digital data. Everything is displayed in 3D, and treatment can be planned appropriately and in accordance with the current condition of the patient's mouth. This makes it easier to avoid damaging the mandibular canal, a nearby root of a neighbouring tooth or sinus lift. It also conforms with the current trend of using techniques like this to reduce possible complications.

A final question: What are your personal highlights of this year's LASAK Implantology Conference?

The scope of our product portfolio has recently been widened. Our conference was, therefore, a good opportunity to present this news to a broad audience in person.

However, the most important thing for us is to welcome our clients here in person and talk to them. This opportunity to maintain a good relationship with them on a personal basis is unique.

Info about the company



Mr Strnad, thank you very much for the interview.

Fig. 1: Prof. Dr. Jörg Neugebauer presented various possible applications of the PrimeLOC attachments. – **Fig. 2:** Impression of the audience at the Implantology Conference in Prague. – **Fig. 3:** Satisfied conference participants enjoy exchanging ideas with one another at the cocktail reception. – **Fig. 4:** Peter Brunzel presented the advantages and features of the PrimeLOC angled attachments. – **Fig. 5:** After the presentations, the participants also had an opportunity to put questions to the speakers.

