Executive summary of recommendations

Details of recommendations can be found in the main text at the pages indicated.

Dental implants in irradiated bone

C The implant team must work closely with the cancer team members such as the radiation oncologist, oral and maxillofacial surgeon, prosthodontist, otolaryngologists/head and neck surgeons, plastic surgeon, speech therapists, dietician and physiotherapist. Such a combined consultation will lead to optimal planning as addressing questions such as:-
   (a) Can bone from tumour resection be saved and reused in the same surgery?
   (b) Can implants be placed prior or during the resection surgery?
   (c) Expected healing outcome from multidisciplinary treatment plan (pg 11).

Grade C, Level 2+

D Patients who receive implants and who were treated with radiation more than 5 years ago should be treated with utmost care (pg 12).

Grade D, Level 2+

D The use of hyperbaric oxygen though controversial may be considered as an adjunct to promote healing in these patients (pg 12).

Grade D, Level 2+

C Placement of endosseous implants in patients with a history of head and neck radiation therapy may be performed by clinicians with experience and training in head and neck radiation therapy (pg 12).

Grade C, Level 2+
**Dental implants in patients receiving oral bisphosphonates**

**C** Patients who have received or are receiving oral bisphosphonates may undergo dental implant therapy with caution (pg 13).

*Grade C, Level 2+

**C** Patients on oral bisphosphonate therapy have to be counselled about the potential risks and complications before proceeding with dental implant treatment (pg 13).

*Grade C, Level 2+

**C** A minimum pre-surgical serum CTX (beta-crosslaps) value of 150pg/ml is recommended before extractions and/or implant surgery in patients on oral bisphosphonate therapy (pg 14).

*Grade C, Level 2+

**C** Other non invasive treatment alternatives must also be discussed with patients (pg 14).

*Grade C, Level 2+

**Dental implants in patients with controlled periodontal disease**

**C** In patients who have been successfully treated for periodontal diseases and have lost teeth, dental implants can be used for tooth/teeth replacements. However, even well-maintained periodontal patients need to be informed of the higher than normal risks and potential for complications in dental implant therapy in the long-term (pg 16).

*Grade C, Level 2+

**GPP** Patients with periodontal diseases should have their condition treated and well maintained before dental implants can be considered. Annual follow up visits to their dentist are necessary to better maintain implants in patients with a history of treated periodontitis (pg 16).

*GPP

**Dental implants in smokers**

**C** Smokers who undergo dental implant therapy are at higher risk of early implant failures and should be closely followed-up during the early healing phase of osseous integration (pg 17).

*Grade C, Level 2+
For smokers who undergo dental implant therapy, particular attention should be paid to complications such as peri-implantitis, marginal bone loss and bone graft healing as part of post-surgical implant care. Where possible, alternative prosthodontic treatment methods should be explored with such patients (pg 17).

**Grade C, Level 2+**

Patients who are smokers can proceed with dental implant therapy provided they are warned about the higher risks of failures, especially early failures (pg 18).

**GPP**

Smokers should be advised to stop smoking during the healing period and where possible prior to dental implant therapy and they should seek counselling help to stop the habit altogether (pg 18).

**GPP**

**Narrow diameter implants**

Implants of diameters between 2.5mm to 3.3mm can be used predictably for mandibular overdenture retention (pg 19).

**Grade B, Level 2++**

Due to lack of clinical data regarding implants of less than 2.5mm in diameter (micro-implants), these implants are not recommended for routine treatment of edentulism (pg 19).

**GPP**

**Extraction and replacement with an implant-supported prosthesis versus endodontic treatment and restoration of teeth with pulpal pathosis**

Patients with pulpal and/or periapical pathosis may be treated with either root canal therapy or extraction and replacement with an endosseous implant-supported dental prosthesis with similar survival rates (pg 20).

**Grade A, Level 1+**
Both non-surgical root canal therapy followed by an appropriate restoration and single-tooth implant are acceptable treatment modalities for the treatment of abscessed teeth. The decision to treat a tooth endodontically or to replace it with an implant must be based on factors other than the treatment outcomes of the procedures themselves, such as medical history, caries, patients’ preference and other socio-economic factors (pg 21).

Grade D, Level 3

**Implant-supported versus tooth-supported fixed dental prosthesis**

For the fixed replacement of a single missing tooth, based on 5-year survival outcomes, an implant-supported single crown or a tooth-supported fixed dental prosthesis are viable options. Other factors apart from survival rates should be taken into consideration when deciding on the choice of replacement (pg 23).

Grade B, Level 2++

Patients should receive information that tooth replacements with fixed dental prosthesis or implants are associated with incidences of biological and technical complications (pg 23).

GPP

**Dental implants in posterior maxilla with sinus bone grafting**

Implants may be placed in posterior maxillary grafted sinuses via the lateral approach (pg 25).

Grade B, Level 2++

Implants may be placed in posterior maxillary grafted sinuses via the transalveolar approach (pg 25).

Grade B, Level 2++

Rough surface/textured implants may be placed in grafted posterior maxillary sinuses with non-autogenous bone graft (pg 25).

Grade C, Level 2+
Implants in augmented ridges

C Implants may be placed in peri-implant defects (dehiscence and fenestration) treated with guided bone regeneration techniques (pg 27).

Grade C, Level 2+

GPP Localised defects in edentulous ridges should be carefully evaluated and grafting can be considered to optimise the outcome of implant treatment (pg 27).

GPP

C Implants may be placed in sites covered with resorbable membranes (pg 27).

Grade C, Level 2+

GPP Both resorbable and non resorbable membranes can be considered when augmenting localised defects. Special attention however should be given to the manipulation and follow-up of patients who have undergone non-resorbable membrane application in the light of its higher complication rates (pg 27).

GPP

C Implants may be placed in atrophied ridges augmented by various techniques (other than onlay grafting) (pg 28).

Grade C, Level 2+

GPP Atrophic ridges should be carefully evaluated and different grafting options must be considered as we plan for implant rehabilitation in these situations. Implant positions must be carefully planned out in grafted atrophic ridges to ensure better, long-term implant survival rate. An optimal balance of load distribution, satisfactory esthetics and functionality must be taken into consideration (pg 28).

GPP

C The efficacy of different grafting techniques in severely atrophic edentulous sites seem to be comparable. Apart from onlay grafting in severely resorbed maxillary areas which shows higher potential for failure and complications, the other techniques proved to be equally effective (pg 28).

Grade C, Level 2+
Other augmentation options should be considered before choosing onlay grafting for severely resorbed maxillary edentulous sites (pg 28).

**Connection of dental implants to natural teeth**

As the treatment of choice, a fixed dental prosthesis supported by osseointegrated implants should be connected to other osseointegrated implants, independent of natural teeth. Connection of osseointegrated implants to natural teeth via a fixed dental prosthesis may be done with adequate warning of a higher complication and failure rates (pg 29).

Grade D, Level 2+

When implants are connected to natural teeth, rigid connection should be used, and only on teeth which are periodontally sound. Regular checks are necessary as mechanical complications and increased marginal bone loss may be expected around either implant or tooth. Modified connections retaining the rigid characteristics that have been proposed without long term results should not be used until more results are available (pg 29).

Grade D, Level 3

**Placement protocol/timing**

Dental implants should be placed in healed sockets as the treatment of choice (pg 31).

Grade C, Level 2+

Implants may be placed into fresh extraction sockets with the patient’s understanding that the survival rate is lower than that placed into healed sockets. Immediate loading of implants placed into fresh extraction sockets should not be done routinely (pg 31).

Grade C, Level 2++

**Loading protocol/timing**

*Edentulous mandible*

Root-form endosseous implants (two or four units) inserted for the purpose of retaining or supporting a removable dental prosthesis that are rigidly splinted together may be loaded immediately (pg 33).

Grade A, Level 1++
B Root-form endosseous implants (four or more units) inserted for the purpose of supporting a fixed one-piece full arch dental prosthesis may be loaded immediately (pg 33).

Grade B, Level 2++

Edentulous maxilla

B Root-form endosseous implants (two or four units) inserted for the purpose of retaining or supporting a removable dental prosthesis should not be loaded immediately (pg 34).

Grade B, Level 2++

C Root-form endosseous implants (six or more units) inserted for the purpose of supporting a fixed one-piece full arch dental prosthesis may be loaded immediately (pg 34).

Grade C, Level 2+

Single tooth replacement

A Conventional loading of a single root-form endosseous implant inserted for the purpose of supporting a single crown is the loading protocol of choice. Immediate loading of a single root-form endosseous implant inserted for the purpose of supporting a single crown may be done with caution (pg 34).

Grade A, Level 1++

Multiple-tooth partial edentulous maxilla/mandible

B Conventional loading of multiple root-form endosseous implants inserted for the purpose of supporting a multiple-unit fixed prosthesis in the anterior or posterior maxilla/mandible is the loading protocol of choice. Immediate loading of multiple root-form endosseous implants inserted for the purpose of supporting multiple-unit fixed prosthesis in the anterior or posterior maxilla/mandible may be done with caution (pg 34).

Grade B, Level 2++