

## Science matters

### Narrow, safe and reliable

**NobelActive 3.0 mm implants demonstrate high implant survival rates and optimal hard and soft tissue results in the anterior. (MacLean et al., accepted for publication in Quintessence International)**

Implant placement in the anterior area is technically challenging, given the narrow shape of lateral upper and lower incisors and the high esthetic impact. In this retrospective study, 45 patients received a total of 58 NobelActive 3.0 mm implants for the rehabilitation of mandibular and lateral maxillary incisors.

Both bone level (remodeling:  $-0.36 \pm 0.85$  mm) and soft tissue health (pocket probing depth:  $1.75 \pm 0.58$  mm) were preserved at 1-year follow-up.

The implant survival rate was in line with previous reports (CSR 96.4%, two implants lost), but the high number of challenging cases (implant placement in sites with congenitally missing teeth,  $n=20$ ) and immediate prosthetic loading ( $n=23$ ) of this study emphasize the successful clinical outcome with NobelActive 3.0 mm implants.

→ [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26949759](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26949759)

### When four equals six

**Both four- and six-implant-based solutions provide predictable clinical outcomes in the rehabilitation of the edentulous maxilla after 5 years. (Tallarico et al., Clin Implant Dent Relat Res. 2015 [Epub ahead of print])**

Having reached five years follow-up, the first randomized controlled trial (RCT) comparing outcomes of edentulous maxilla patients rehabilitated with the All-on-4® treatment concept or “All-on-6” implants shows no differences in survival ( $p=0.246$ ), bone remodeling ( $p=0.12$ ) nor in biological or technical complications ( $p>0.10$ ).

All 40 patients were treated using guided surgery and an immediate loading protocol. No failures of the cross-arch fixed dental prostheses occurred and all technical complications were easily resolved chairside. Although not significant, implant survival outcomes were better in patients undergoing the All-on-4® procedure, and bone remodeling was very similar in both groups ( $1.71 \pm 0.42$  mm All-on-4® vs.  $1.51 \pm 0.36$  mm).

This RCT provides strong evidence that both approaches represent a predictable treatment option for completely edentulous patients.

→ [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26446912](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26446912)

### Over 30 years in function

**Brånemark implants can support screw-retained prostheses for over 30 years without any major complications. (Turkylmaz and Tözüm, Implant Dent 2015;24:620–624)**

Reports of 30-year clinical outcomes of implant treatments are rare in the literature. This retrospective analysis reports no implant loss (100% implant survival rate) in four women available for follow-up 30 years after receiving a total of 28 Brånemark System implants.

The implants supported five screw-retained fixed dental prostheses (FDPs) and only one FDP needed replacement (80% prosthesis survival rate).

The bone tissue was also maintained healthy and stable (average marginal bone level:  $2.6 \pm 0.5$  mm). This study shows that FDPs supported by Brånemark System implants are a good long-term and frequently a life-long solution for patients.

→ [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26288163](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26288163)

# A Sound Investment in Professional Development

“I always wanted to partner with a global organization.”

**Dr. Simonas Bankauskas, who will be speaking in the NexGen Forum for emerging leaders at the Nobel Biocare Global Symposium in New York in June, has gone from dental school graduate to head of the largest dental chain in Lithuania within 10 years. The secret to his success? A dedication to developing his skills.**

By Michael Stuart

Even though he had not long graduated from dental school, Dr. Simonas Bankauskas was intent on starting with dental implant surgery as quickly as possible.

“I had heard it could help people and be a good opportunity,” Dr. Bankauskas recalled. “I saw an introductory implantology course being advertised by Nobel Biocare and I knew I wanted to do it. At that time it was a significant investment, it was almost a choice between learning and eating, but I took the chance.”

It was a decisive moment that would mark the start of a career path Dr. Bankauskas has been following ever since.

After presenting him with the certificate for completing the course, the Nobel Biocare representative that arranged the course introduced him to a colleague as the “future number-one dental surgeon in Lithuania.” For a goal-oriented young clinician like Dr. Bankauskas, this was further motivation to see how far he could go.

#### Learning from the best

Dr. Bankauskas began placing implants almost immediately after the course, realizing that there was much more he wanted to learn. He began investing in training around the globe, visiting some of the world’s most renowned clinicians in order to gain new perspectives and to find answers to the questions that arose as he made progress in the field.

With words of advice from the likes of Drs. Paulo Malo and Sascha Jovanovic still in his ears, he returned to Lithuania where he began to grow his reputation. Having quickly recouped the money spent on training, Dr. Bankauskas used money he had originally earmarked

for a lakeside summerhouse to open a clinic of his own.

#### Rapid development

A new clinic, of course, added the pressures of practice management to those of clinical work. Again Dr. Bankauskas invested in his own development to obtain the required skills, completing an EMBA.

His thesis looked specifically at how to expand dental clinics. While his tutor considered the plan overly ambitious, Dr. Bankauskas was soon testing his proposals in practice.

Today Dr. Bankauskas runs seven clinics across Lithuania with more set to open soon. Last year he alone placed around 2,600 Nobel Biocare implants and treated around 400 patients with the All-on-4® treatment concept.

#### Partnering for success

While his career has evolved at a fast pace, one thing has remained a con-

stant—the partnership between Dr. Bankauskas and Nobel Biocare.

“That first Nobel Biocare representative I met on that first training course took such good care of me, gave me the encouragement I needed,” Dr. Bankauskas explained. “I always wanted to partner with a global organization—a service provider with true quality control. I work with Nobel Biocare because, like me, they are always focused on the patient.” <

→ **More to explore!**

Combining practice development skills with clinical learning is the focus of Nobel Biocare’s new Guide to Growth program. It’s designed to help ambitious clinicians fulfill their potential. Find out more at: [nobelbiocare.com/grow](http://nobelbiocare.com/grow).



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