

Evidence based evaluation of the longevity of fixed reconstructions

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In the daily praxis, dentists face the challenge of making difficult clinical decisions. When planning a fixed reconstruction, the most common possibilities are a tooth supported or an implant supported fixed partial denture (FPDs) or single crowns (SC). In the treatment planning, several risk factors have to be taken into account. As there are no randomized controlled clinical trials in the dental literature comparing tooth supported FPDs to implant supported FPDs, a series of systematic reviews was performed to assess and compare the 5 and 10 year survival of tooth (conventional and cantilever FPDs), combined tooth-implant and solely implant supported FPDs and to evaluate the incidence of biological and technical complications.

In this lecture, the result from this systematic reviews will be presented and the different risk factors, that have to be taken into account in treatment planning of fixed reconstruction, will be discussed.

Finally, the question will be addressed whether it is possible to practice evidence based treatment planning in prosthetic dentistry. Is there enough evidence available to guide us in choosing between conventional FPDs, cantilever FPDs, combined tooth-implant supported FPDs, solely implant supported FPDs and implant supported single crowns when we do our treatment planning or do we still have to go by the "gut" feeling and our clinical experience?