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Bridging the gap: Reconstruction of soft and hard tissues in oral & maxillofacial surgery and implantology

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Bone regeneration is a complex, well-orchestrated physiological process of bone formation, which can be seen during normal fracture healing and is involved in continuous remodeling throughout adult life. However, there are complex clinical conditions in which bone regeneration is required in small or large quantity such as for loss of cortical bone at the time of implant placement, loss of bone due to peri implantitis, skeletal reconstruction of large bone defects created by trauma, infection, tumor resection and skeletal abnormalities or cases in which the regenerative process is compromised including avascular necrosis, atrophic non-unions and osteoporosis. Currently, there is a plethora of different strategies to augment the impaired or 'insufficient' bone regeneration process including the gold standard autologous bone graft, free fibula vascularized graft, allograft implantation and use of growth factors, osteoconductive scaffolds, osteoprogenitor cells and distraction osteogenesis. Improved local strategies in terms of tissue engineering and gene therapy or even systemic enhancement of bone repair are under intense investigation in an effort to overcome the limitations of the current methods to produce bone-graft substitutes with biomechanical properties that are as identical to normal bone as possible to accelerate the overall regeneration process or even to address systemic conditions such as skeletal disorders and osteoporosis. Over the past years, we have seen new products approved and released to the market and the pipeline of therapies on the horizon continues to expand. This paper demonstrates the various approaches, material, implants produced by various commercial companies to reconstruct soft and hard tissue defects and its application in implant dentistry and oral surgery.

Biography

Jehad Al Sukhun is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon with a Master's degree in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from the University of Manchester and PhD from the University of London in UK. He has gained a number of Fellowships and Professional Memberships in USA, UK and Australia. During his PhD studies at the University of London, he has obtained in-depth knowledge and experience in maxillofacial implantology and computer aided surgery using finite element analysis. He has worked at Royal Manchester University Hospital, Royal Surrey County Hospital and UAE University College, Dubai. He has gained significant clinical experience in specialized dentistry, implantology, oncology, trauma, orthognathic surgery, reconstructive and cosmetic plastic surgery. He has developed particular interest on the use of bioresorbable plates for reconstructing orbital fractures. During his work in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery, he has produced more than 45 papers published in international peer review journals. He is on the Editorial Board of a number of well recognized journals in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

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