

Maltepe Dental Clinic Addresses Implant Identification Problem With Recognisable Dental Implants and Patient Cards

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Maltepe Dental Clinic has set out how it makes sure any dentist can identify a patient?s implant after the patient returns home, by giving every implant patient a card that identifies their implant and by building its implant work on internationally distributed systems. The approach responds to a problem documented in European dentistry, in which dentists are often unable to tell which manufacturer made an implant placed at another practice.

Zahnärztliche Mitteilungen, the journal of the German Dental Association and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Dentists (KZBV), described the problem in September 2022 in its report on an electronic implant passport project led by the German Society of Implantology. The report noted that dentists frequently face the question of which manufacturer produced a patient?s implant, that a paper card exists but is not issued as standard and is sometimes lost, and that current handling is inconsistent and outdated.

The consequences fall on patients after they return home. A patient who later needs a repair or a new prosthetic may find that a local dentist cannot recognise the implant. Without knowing the manufacturer and system, the dentist cannot easily source matching components, and routine maintenance can become more complicated.

The Council of European Dentists addressed the same concern in its position paper Implant Cards for Dental Implants, adopted in November 2020. The CED considers dental implants not exempt from the implant card requirement of the EU Medical Device Regulation and holds that a dentist who places an implant should give the patient a card identifying the device, while noting that interpretation has varied between countries.

?Every implant patient leaves with a card, so any dentist they see at home can tell which implant they have and order the right parts,? said Dr. Yusuf Ilhan, co-lead dentist of Maltepe Dental Clinic. ?That identification is as important to long-term care as the surgery itself.?

The clinic builds its implant work around a small set of internationally distributed dental implant brands. Its main systems are Straumann Roxolid, Neodent and MegaGen AnyRidge. All three are cleared by the US Food and Drug Administration and licensed by Health Canada, according to the two regulators? public device databases.

The FDA database also lists abutments from other manufacturers designed for Straumann, Neodent and MegaGen AnyRidge implants. This shows that compatible parts are made beyond the original implant makers, although not every part suits every case and the listings do not mean the implant makers endorse them.

?We chose systems that are supported far beyond Istanbul,? said Dr. Alper Gurhan, co-lead dentist of Maltepe Dental Clinic. ?An implant should be recognisable wherever a patient lives, not only in the place it was fitted.?

The dental clinic has explained the principle for patients in an educational video that compares an implant and its components to a lock and key, where the parts must match the system in place. The principle applies to single restorations and to multiple tooth implants supported by an implant-anchored bridge, where identification remains important throughout the life of the restoration.

Maltepe Dental Clinic is a dental practice in Kadikoy, Istanbul, with an in-house dental laboratory and a consultation clinic in London. The clinic provides treatments including crowns, veneers, cosmetic dentistry and implants. It holds an International Health Tourism Authorisation Certificate issued by Türkiye?s Ministry

of Health and is certified to ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO 13485 for medical device quality management.

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Maltepe Dental Clinic

Maltepe Dental Clinic delivers world-class dental care, backed by over 22 years of expertise, cutting-edge technology, and a dedicated team, serving patients in Istanbul and at our London consultation office.

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