

# DENTISTRY AND DENTAL EXPO

June 12-13, 2019 | Bangkok, Thailand

J Clin Dentistry Oral Health 2019, Volume 3

## EVALUATION OF KEY FACTORS IN IMPLANT SYSTEM SELECTION BETWEEN DENTISTS

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**Background:** Studies have shown achieving long term survival rate (over 20 years) of dental implants is between 92% and 98%. Since different types of implant systems are available with various brands, dentists are confronted with the question of which criteria are more important for the selection of an efficient implant system.

**Purpose:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the key factors affecting implant system selection between dentists.

**Methods:** A questionnaire investigating the key factors in implant system selection was designed and circulated amongst 120 dentists who were involved in dental implant treatment. Obtained data were statistically analyzed via SPSS software.

**Results:** The result indicated that 52.5% of dental practices (the highest frequency) apply two implant systems within their dental implant treatment. For the majority of dentists (40.8%), the first key element in choosing the implant system was the implant support services provided by the supplier company. The cost of implants (25.8%) and satisfaction history of previous cases (23.3%) was the second and third key factors in the selection of implant system, respectively. 59.2% of dentists indicated that the manufacturing country of dental implant was the least important factor affecting their selection to identify an efficient implant system. Recommendation from colleagues (24.2%) was the second least critical factor in implant system selection. 61 dentists (50.8%) reported that they had experience of discontinuing the application of one particular implant system in their practices, which was mainly due to the high failure rate (59.0%) and poor implant support services (27.9%). Moreover, it was identified that the quality of the implant was an important element of implant system selection in 68.8% of the general dentists and 75% of the specialized dentists ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that for the majority of dentists, the first critical factor in implant system selection was the implant support services provided by the supplier company. The cost of implants and the level of satisfaction achieved in previous cases are other important elements. In addition, the majority of dentists reported the manufacturing country of dental implant as the least important factor in choosing an efficient implant system within their dental practices.