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Astra Tech at EAO 2008 – setting a new standard for marginal bone maintenance and launching the latest CAD/CAM technology

Astra Tech challenges the current standard in marginal bone maintenance and sets a new standard implying only 0.3 mm of bone loss for a successful implant. Also, Astra Tech launches Atlantis™, a unique method of producing patient-specific abutments based on the appearance of the final tooth, in Europe.

After evaluating thousands of Astra Tech implants over a period of 1-7 years, Astra Tech presents a summary of the radiographic data showing an average bone loss way below what is stated in the current standard for a successful treatment. "Follow-up research among patients consistently shows a marginal bone level reduction of just 0.4 mm or less for Astra Tech dental implants, a performance indicator at least three times superior to the industry norm," says Lyndon Cooper, Professor of Dentistry in the Department of Prosthodontics at the University of North Carolina, who has performed one of the studies.

The current standard^{1,2,3}, based on research on other implant systems, shows a mean bone level reduction of about 1.5 mm after five years. Maintenance of the marginal bone level is a prerequisite for long-term esthetics and the successful function of the implant. Tomas Albrektsson, Professor of Biomaterial Research at The Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, says, "The limited marginal bone resorption being documented on Astra Tech implants indicates that it is time to reconsider our old 'standard' from 1986. The new standard should perhaps only allow 50% or less of the bone resorption currently accepted as a successful result."

Atlantis™ patient-specific abutments, a patented method for digitally producing abutments, is now available in Europe, offering an optimal functional and esthetic solution for dental professionals. Using the latest CAD/CAM technology, individually adapted abutments are produced for each patient. As opposed to standard abutments, Atlantis' technology is built around a unique method that is based on the appearance of the final tooth. The end result is optimized individual esthetics and long-term reliability. For the clinic and patient this technology means reduced chairtime since the precision of the abutments eliminates the need for the dentist to make further adjustments. Atlantis' method makes it possible to fabricate individual abutments for most of the major implant systems on the market. The technology also allows for increased efficiency and profitability for the dental laboratory.

“Atlantis gives us an even stronger product portfolio in the field of dental implants. We introduce the latest digital CAD/CAM technology in Europe and strengthen our position in the North American market. This also gives us a leading position in the fastest growing segment in the field of implants,” says Astra Tech’s President and CEO, Peter Selley.

1 Albrektsson, T. and Zarb, G. A. *Int J Prosthodont* 1993;6(2):95-105.

2 Albrektsson, T. et al. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants* 1986;1(1):11-25.

3 Roos, J. et al. *Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants* 1997;12(4):504-514

For further information, please contact:

Björn Delin, Business Unit Director, Dental, Astra Tech AB
Phone +46 705 76 72 60

Kerstin Wettby, Head of Market Communication, Dental, Astra Tech AB
Phone +46 705 16 32 02

Visit Astra Tech www.astratechdental.com

About Astra Tech

Astra Tech AB, a subsidiary of the AstraZeneca group, develops, manufactures, markets dental implants and advanced disposable products for use within healthcare. The company develops products that enhance treatment results, simplify work for healthcare professionals and help cut healthcare costs.

Astra Tech’s headquarters and production facilities are located in Mölndal, Sweden. The company is represented globally by 16 subsidiaries and selected local partners. Astra Tech has a total of 2,100 employees worldwide. The company puts 5 percent of its revenues annually into research. Astra Tech’s revenues in 2007 totaled SEK 3 billion.