

# Implant Surface Enhancement - Myth and Reality

## Comparative analysis of currently available implants

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### Introduction

Implant surface characteristics are considered to play a mayor role in accelerating the processes leading to osseointegration. Some manufacturers claim for a reduced healing time (6-8 or 8 weeks)<sup>1</sup>. Besides physical and chemical parameters like wettability, positive or negative surface charge and

surface-free energy, the topography of dental implant surfaces can influence cell attachment and subsequent osseointegration.<sup>3,4</sup> Several cell types are involved in the process of osseointegration, osteoblast-like cells and other anchorage-dependent cells, such as

fibroblasts. These cells show similar morphologic behaviour and affinity to rough titanium surfaces.<sup>2</sup> The aim of this poster is to present the topographical aspects of currently available implant surfaces.

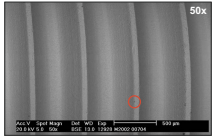
### Material and Methods

Different commercially available dental implants have been investigated to compare surface roughness and reproducibility of advertised properties. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was used for topographical evaluation, backscattered electron imaging

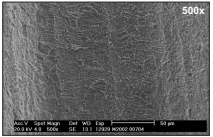
(BEI) was used for density and/or atomic number analysis, and x-ray micro-analysis (XRM) was used for elemental analysis.

### Results

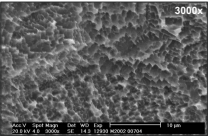
#### 3i Osseotite® (Solely acid-etched)



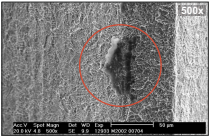
Embedded particles on threads



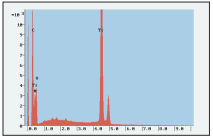
Topography of solely acid-etched surface



Slightly inhomogeneous surface structures

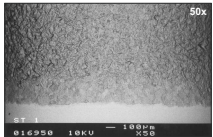


Embedded particle; magnification 500x

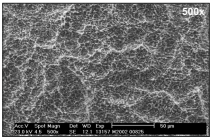


XRM-analysis of embedded particle. Possible source: sealing cap used for protection while etching

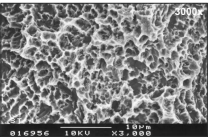
#### Straumann SLA® (Grit-blasted/acid-etched)



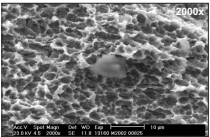
Surface of grit-blasted and acid etched implant



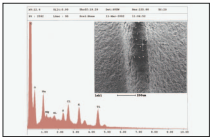
Topography of grit-blasted and acid-etched surface



Homogeneous topography of grit-blasted and acid-etched surface

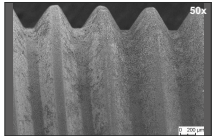


Grit particle on surface; magnification 2000x

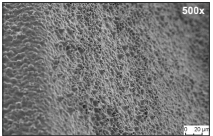


XRM-analysis of small particles on thread; source: organic material

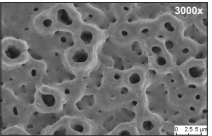
#### Nobel Biocare TiUnit® (Anodic oxidation)



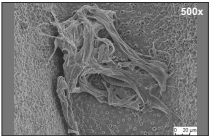
Inhomogeneous surface morphology, produced by anodic oxidation



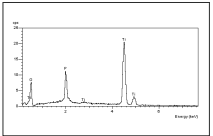
Topography of surface produced by anodic oxidation; porous structures



Cracked surface and highly inhomogeneous distribution of porous structures

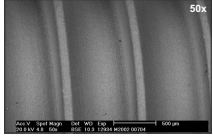


Foreign fibrous particle on surface; magnification 500x

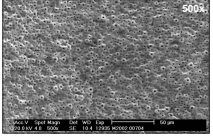


XRM-analysis of surface; high concentration of phosphorus (claimed as pure TiO<sub>2</sub>-surface)

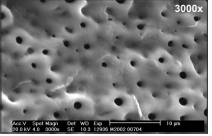
#### ZL TIGER® (Anodic oxidation)



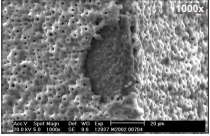
Inhomogeneous porosities on threads



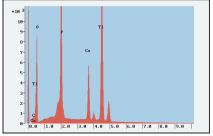
Topography of surface produced by anodic oxidation; similarity to TiUnit surface



Cracked surface and inhomogeneous distribution of porosities

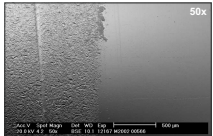


Surface defect; magnification 1000x

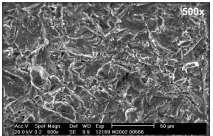


XRM-analysis showing presence of calcium and phosphorus

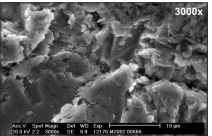
#### Ankylos® (Solely grit-blasted)



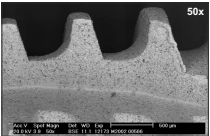
Embedded particle on transition area



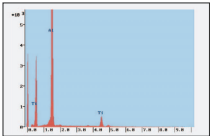
Structure of solely grit-blasted surface



Structure with presence of grit particles

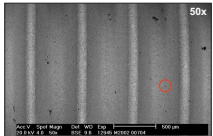


Surface defect on threads; magnification 50x

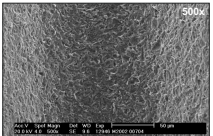


XRM-analysis of grit particle; identified as aluminum oxide

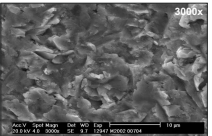
#### Astra TiOblast® (Solely titanium-blasted)



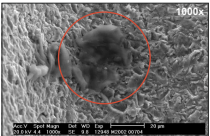
Embedded particles on surface



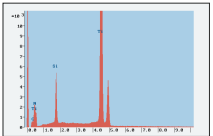
Structure of titanium-blasted surface



Slightly inhomogeneous blasted surface



Embedded particle; magnification 1000x



XRM-analysis of embedded particle; source: organic material

### Conclusion

Some marketing claims on implant surface characteristics should be critically evaluated and discussed on their clinical evidence. Embedded particles of the production process like grit particles can be observed as well as inhomogeneous structures.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, within the range of state-of-the-art implant surfaces very high success rates have been documented.<sup>4</sup> Topographical similarities of different implant

surfaces can be observed. This could lead to the conclusion that reduced healing times claimed for a specific surface could also be related to surfaces with similar topographies. Surface roughness values are not clearly related to topographical appearance. Further development of enhanced implant surfaces should lead to morphologic structures which are homogeneously distributed to enable an all over high level of

close cell attachment. Limited data on the influence of embedded production particles on the implant surface is available. However, Paolantonio et al. has demonstrated that no statistic evidence could be provided to support the hypothesis that surface inorganic contamination could affect osseointegration of titanium dental fixtures.<sup>5</sup>

### References

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4. Sclaras N, Iacopino AM, Marker VA, Topple RG, Woody RD. Implant materials, design, and surface topographies: Their effect on Osseointegration. A literature review. Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants 2000;15: 625-650
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8. Paolantonio M, Vignale C, Piattoli M, Mangano C, Scarnato R (University of Chieti, Italy). Effects of surface inorganic contamination on the osseointegration of dental implants. J Dent Res 2000;79 (supp 3):335



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