

Identifying Dental Implants and Evaluating Compatibility Among Domestic Systems

Dr. Park Jung-hyun

Dental implant surgery is no longer considered a specialized or rare procedure; it has long become a routine clinical practice, much like resin restorations or inlays. Consequently, it is increasingly common for patients who received implants at other clinics to visit new practices due to discomfort or complications. While clinicians previously referred these patients back to their original practitioners, such referrals are often impractical due to various patient circumstances. As with any other restorative failure, clinicians are now frequently required to manage and treat implants placed by others.

The dental implant market is characterized by a complex landscape of compatibility. While some manufacturers design their systems to be interchangeable, others opt for proprietary designs. In South Korea alone, nearly 100 implant manufacturers exist. Furthermore, a single company often produces multiple fixture lines and frequently updates designs, leading to compatibility issues even between older and newer generations of the same brand. Although clinicians typically master several systems, it is virtually impossible to be proficient in every available model. Identifying a specific implant—especially when prosthetic complications arise—is critical, as obtaining essential components like impression copings or abutments becomes impossible without accurate identification.

To address these clinical hurdles, the Korean Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Implantology (KAOMI) has provided an "Implant Identification Service" for its members since 2018. While a panel of experienced professors and clinicians collaborates to identify mystery implants through collective expertise, a significant number of cases remain unidentified due to the sheer diversity of the market.

To ensure patient safety and continuity of care, it is imperative to establish more systematic and effective methodologies for implant identification. This presentation aims to discuss the current state of implant compatibility and explore potential solutions to resolve these diagnostic and therapeutic challenges in contemporary clinical practice.

Profile

- * DDS: Seoul University College of Dentistry
- * MSD & PhD: Completed doctoral coursework at Seoul National University Graduate School of Dentistry
- * Present, Executive Board Member, Korean Academy of Periodontology
Executive Board Member, Korean Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Implantology (KAOMI)
Director: Boa Dental Clinic