



## **Backgrounder**

### **Straumann® BoneCeramic – leading the way for new vital bone**

Approximately one in five patients needing tooth replacement does not have adequate bone to provide sufficient stability for a dental implant. Such cases are currently treated either before or during dental implant placement, most commonly through the application of a bone graft taken from the same patient (autogenous). Autogenous bone has good regeneration potential, but graft removal can be painful and is associated with certain risks. An alternative to autografting is to use materials from another human source or from animals. This is associated with a potential risk for disease transfection. Fully synthetic bone graft materials provide a solution to these obstacles. However, the available products are limited by their absorption or handling characteristics.

Straumann BoneCeramic is a novel, fully synthetic bone graft substitute that provides maximum space for bone deposition and outstanding handling convenience. Its composition of hydroxyapatite (HA) and tricalcium phosphate ( $\beta$ -TCP) gives it two-phases of activity. Firstly, it enhances the formation of new vital bone, and secondly it provides a scaffold for predictable bone volume gain. It thus provides the necessary anchorage for implant function and the tissue support for esthetic outcomes.

Straumann BoneCeramic has CE certification in Europe and clearance from the Food and Drug Administration in the USA. The company initiated a controlled introduction of Straumann BoneCeramic through selected specialists in Europe and the US towards the end of 2004. Since then it has been rolled out globally. The clinical program has extended to 13 countries and involving more than 600 clinicians and studies are ongoing as part of Straumann's extensive development program. Final results of a clinical multicenter study will be presented at the ITI World Symposium in April 2007. Overall, the response from clinicians has been overwhelmingly positive.

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