REVIEW

Diagnostic imaging of trabecular bone microstructure for oral implants: a literature review

N Ibrahim*1,2, A Parsa1, B Hassan1, P van der Stelt1 and D Wismeijer3

1Department of General and Specialized Dentistry, Section of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Academic Center for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA), Amsterdam, Netherlands; 2Department of General Dental Practice and Oral & Maxillofacial Imaging, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 3Department of Experimental and Restorative Dentistry, Section of Implantology and Prosthetic Dentistry, Academic Center for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA), Amsterdam, Netherlands

Several dental implant studies have reported that radiographic evaluation of bone quality can aid in reducing implant failure. Bone quality is assessed in terms of its quantity, density, trabecular characteristics and cells. Current imaging modalities vary widely in their efficiency in assessing trabecular structures, especially in a clinical setting. Most are very costly, require an extensive scanning procedure coupled with a high radiation dose and are only partially suitable for patient use. This review examines the current literature regarding diagnostic imaging assessment of trabecular microstructure prior to oral implant placement and suggests cone beam CT as a method of choice for evaluating trabecular bone microstructure.

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