

Is Periodontics A Dead Specialty?

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There is a concern that despite the recent evidence indicating that greater than 50 percent of the population has periodontal disease, the number of patients being seen in periodontal practices is diminishing. Moreover, everyone in dentistry is getting into the placement of dental implants. It is no wonder that periodontists question if there is a future to the specialty. What is one to do? There are certain aspects to patient care that both periodontal residency training and *our* continuing education provide that set periodontists apart. Emerging complications with dental implants are demanding that there be someone out there to both identify and treat these awful dilemmas for our patients. Knowing what the literature states and how to best apply will continue to set periodontists apart and maintain the need for the specialty. This lecture will explore algorithms for care that provide predictable results for practitioners willing to embrace our ever changing therapy.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the historic risk factors for peri-implant diseases and what may be emerging risks
- Identify what has been successful with treating peri-implant diseases
- List the steps involved with treating peri-implant diseases
- Discuss the emerging role of the lasers in periodontal care