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Interview: “Anything that we do needs to be driving towards better patient care”

By Dental Tribune MEA

Dental Tribune MEA had the pleasure of interviewing Angelo Maura, General Manager for the Middle East, and Africa region at Align Technology. Angelo stepped into this new role in late 2020, following a track record of eight years with Align Technology across three different regions, in a number of global and regional roles.

In this interview we discuss the decision behind Align Technology to establish the MEA Advisory Council of experts in order to provide valuable and neutral insights into the dental industry, now and for the future. As a result, a white paper titled “Digitisation and Patient Care: Mapping New Opportunities in the Dental Sector”, was published on the digital shifts in the orthodontic industry.

Tell us about Align Technology’s “Digitisation and Patient Care” whitepaper and the research that took place developing this? As you know, when the pandemic hit, the industry was quite impacted across the board. This included widespread practice closures, and almost

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Angelo Maura – General Manager for MEA at Align Technology

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zero patient flows. What we wanted to do overall is understand how patients had embraced the new normal and understand what happened in patients and doctors' minds regarding the pandemic and the resulting changes. In order to do so, we did two things. First, we had commissioned a survey with YouGov which surveyed 1,000 respondents, half of which are based in Saudi Arabia and the other half in the UAE. We posed questions regarding their sentiment around the future of telehealth and tele dentistry, and how these have been impacted by the pandemic. Second, we ran round-table discussions with several key opinion leaders across the GCC region. We integrated the findings in the white paper and have recently published key results.

What were some of the key findings?

We found that patients had definitely undergone a mind shift by embracing the new normal of digital dentistry. Nearly all of them (88%) said that they found tele dentistry to be highly valuable. Only a third of the respondents used digital communication with their dentists, but out of those, 78% said that they found it even more convenient than before. The overall message is that they will be continuing to use tele dentistry and although this has been where the industry was moving before, the pandemic accelerated its adoption. We also found that nothing can replace face-to-face interaction, as direct dentist care is still fundamental in the industry. And we do believe in that. However, it will be very impor-

tant for dental professionals to find a balance between face-to-face care and tele dentistry in order to give a better service and better care to patients.

In the "new normal", will patients still be inclined to choose tele dentistry?

The short answer is: definitely yes. One thing to remember is that tele dentistry did not arise from COVID-19 but had existed before. We saw this during the 2nd Digital Health MENA Forum in Dubai, UAE, in which we participated, where certain tools saw an exponential growth in adoption, in response to the pandemic. However, those are tools that were already in use. So, the simple answer to the question is yes because the majority of the patients surveyed found it even more convenient than before and the dental professionals, too found it more convenient than before. I don't foresee a return to the pre-pandemic situation in this regard.

How can we balance online and offline communication in telehealth?

This is an important and delicate matter. Face-to-face services are still and will continue to be fundamental for the patient-practitioner relationship. There will always be a need for patients to be seen in person. At the same time, we found that 78% of the people surveyed found this online communication to be even more convenient, so the demand will definitely continue to grow, and people will keep using online communication and keep getting used to it. What is going to be fundamental in all of this is finding the right balance, as you say. We find the right balance by having the best patient care in mind. So, especially in this region, interpersonal relationships are highly valued, and the way the journey of the user is designed is going to be important to find this balance. I think it's fundamental that in designing

help with generating outcomes that are repeatable. So the moment the dentist does things digitally rather than in analogue, whether he or she is able to do it in a repeatable manner, he or she is able to work more precisely, able to record what he or she is doing and able to increase efficiency, because the moment the dentist can see patients remotely, his or her capacity in terms of the number of patients seen in a day in the practice goes up. This can make the practice more efficient, the clinical outcomes more effective and repeatable, and may allow the practitioner to see more patients.

What new developments can we expect in orthodontics in the foreseeable future and how do you think these can be leveraged to secure greater penetration of the market?

I think that this is connected to the previous question, how do we further develop this digital ecosystem for the practitioner? The developments most likely are going to be around the way the patient journey is digitised. They're going to be around those aspects that we just spoke about: record taking, diagnosing, visualising, planning, manufacturing. The digital ecosystem is going to be touching on all of this, and part of this is going to be development in intra-oral scanning and making the device itself more and more effective in terms of the quality of care and the quality of treatment. I think that overall, this is going to allow practitioners to make patients more aware of the importance of correcting malocclusion in order to have better overall health. This is something that I think is important for the industry at large. We know that correctly identifying malocclusion and having appropriate diagnosing visualisation for the patient help in creating a better, more comprehensive treatment plan for the patient. All of this will start with identifying and correcting malocclusion. This

"We find the right balance by having the best patient care in mind."

these kinds of tools, as an industry, we have the patient journey in mind and the importance of the relationship between the patient and the practitioner. In conclusion, it comes down to the practitioner to navigate between the online and offline ecosystem, depending on the patient and the situation. This also depends on the design of the workflow of the practice and how seamless and efficient the workflow is.

What benefits can digitisation bring for orthodontists?

The benefits for orthodontists probably apply to the whole dental industry. The main benefit is the creation of our digital ecosystem, in which digitisation of tools can help take better records, can help doctors diagnose better, can help plan better, can help visualise and discuss the treatment plan and the options with patients more effectively, and eventually can help manufacture or create a device better. The benefits are connected to all these aspects, not only for orthodontics but for the whole dental industry. There is a major benefit to digitising the patient process; therefore, having an intra-oral scanner, to start with, is a very important step to be more efficient and more predictable. It will also

is what we believe, from a patient safety and awareness perspective, it is going to be shifting, so anything that the digital ecosystem allows the practitioner to do better is going to be increasing his or her effectiveness and the overall growth of the market.

Great insights! Thank you, Angelo. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

I'll say again—I cannot emphasise this enough— anything that we do needs to be driving towards better patient care. Patient care needs to be doctor-led – and doctor's involvement in crucial to patient safety and treatment outcomes. We strongly believe that the moment we give better patient care, it feeds into better overall comprehensive dental care, and that starts with correcting the patient's bite. Comprehensive care allows for minimal invasive, longer-lasting dentistry, and diagnosing and correcting malocclusion. ^{DTI}

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Scan and connect digitally. Or treat it in a single visit. Either way, it's prime.

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What to look for in your composite restoration instruments setup?

By HuFriedyGroup

Is it possible to think that there might be a single kit suitable for all restorative procedures?

For general and cosmetic practitioners, limiting your setup to instruments which truly help you to be efficient matters. It is much more beneficial to have a few carefully-selected, high-quality instruments at the ready than a dazzling array leaving you wondering what to use next. As we know, creating an aesthetic restoration requires proficient and meticulous attention to detail.

– **To do it right**, dentists need high-quality instruments that are up to

the job of satisfying both patients and their own professional standards.

– **To do it efficiently**, dentists need instant access to a set of instruments perfectly suited for the job, thereby reducing time wasted choosing instruments or working with suboptimal instruments.

High-quality craftsmanship as a “must”

Cheap instruments translate to poor craftsmanship. As asked in the past by Dr. Lauro Labanca, “Shouldn’t we place the same importance on the instruments we use as we do on the work we do when using them?”

Dental instruments should be carefully crafted by manufacturing artisans who share the same attention to detail as dental professionals.

The working ends of the WeRestore.it are made from Immunity Steel alloy, an optimal blend of carbon and chromium that provides strength and resists corrosion. Points are hand-crafted by Hu-Friedy artisans who ensure each working end is flawlessly shaped, aligned, and sharpened.

Clear labelling for a better identification

Using the correct instruments at the right step of the procedure is a huge

time savings during restorative procedures. When spreading composite material during an anterior restoration, for example, you want to be sure you have a fine blade in your hand and not a less dexterous padded instrument.

WeRestore.it instruments are colour-coded so dentists can quickly identify the desired instrument at a glance. No more squinting at subtly different working ends.

XTS Working Ends for a less sticky composite material

When working with sticky composite materials, having instruments

which place and shape materials effortlessly without sticking is a key point.

WeRestore.it features XTS (aluminum titanium nitride) technology on the working end coating. In fact, XTS composite instruments allow for exceptional non-stick placement of materials without discolouring the restoration. Studies indicate that AlTiN coatings are consistently harder, smoother and stick less as compared to Titanium coatings. Additionally, Hu-Friedy XTS instruments are made from Immunity Steel for longer life.

Ergonomic handles to enhance comfort while reducing hand fatigue

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a real problem in the dental profession. Even so, tired hands or slippery instruments can slow you down and impede the fine control needed for clinically desired restorations.

The weight and comfort of your instrument smooth handles make all the difference. Handles are also easy to clean, which saves time and prolongs the life of the instruments.

The essential restorative kit including “plug&sculpt” instrument

The Hu-Friedy 3SESSENTIAL KIT by Werestore.it is the most straightforward kit of restorative ever made, with just three essential instruments at once: Anterior, Posterior and Spatula, from the Hu-Friedy Black Line Collection, plus the addition of the new Calibra, which helps to provide the proper anatomical curvature to the dentin material layer of a restoration. The three main instruments are synergic and interchangeable and the word “Essential” refers to the easiness of all restorative procedures focused on the essential steps to create high aesthetic composite restorations while using this kit. The revolutionary concept of “Plug&Sculpt” of the Posterior is very simple: one tip is used to plug the composite into the cavity and the other one can sculpt composite in additive and subtractive modelling techniques. The Anterior, instead, is called by the doctors “solid brush” since it models and spreads the composite very easily, just like a brush.

Featured by the WeRestore.it team

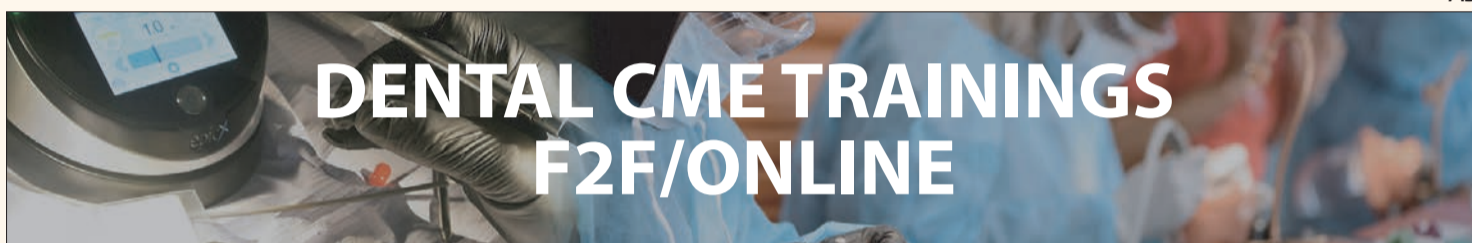
WeRestore.it is a project founded in 2016 by Gaetano Paolone and Salvatore Scolavino. WeRestore.it aims for excellence in adhesive direct and indirect restorative dentistry. Both Salvatore and Gaetano are active members of the Italian Academy of Restorative Dentistry. They wrote a book about direct posterior restorations edited by Quintessence Int. Publishing. Gaetano is adjunct professor of Restorative Dentistry at Vita e Salute University, San Raffaele, Milan. They lecture all around the world in restorative dentistry and run master courses in the WeRestore.it course center in Rome. www.werestore.it

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Software enhancements support a higher level of performance for Primescan and CEREC Primemill

By Dentsply Sirona

Dentsply Sirona is announcing its latest upgrade for both Connect and CEREC Software, giving users new functionalities and even better performance*. Patient communication is improved with a new visualization step in the model phase. The upgrade can also contribute an improvement for the benefit of Primescan users. New firmware makes the intraoral scanner twice as fast, provides a high-performing scanning experience and gives users access to new workflows and even better usability*.

The latest upgrade of the Connect and CEREC Software and improved firmware provides Primescan and CEREC users with additional options for making treatment more efficient, faster and more convenient with digital workflows. Primescan intraoral scanner's latest enhancements optimize performance as described as follows: Through its enhanced firmware, Primescan captures up to 1.5 million 3D data points per second. With these enhancements, Primescan is significantly smoother and twice as fast, making it again easier to scan successfully even for relatively inexperienced users*.

* Unless stated otherwise, all comparative statements in this press release refer to a comparison between Dentsply Sirona products.

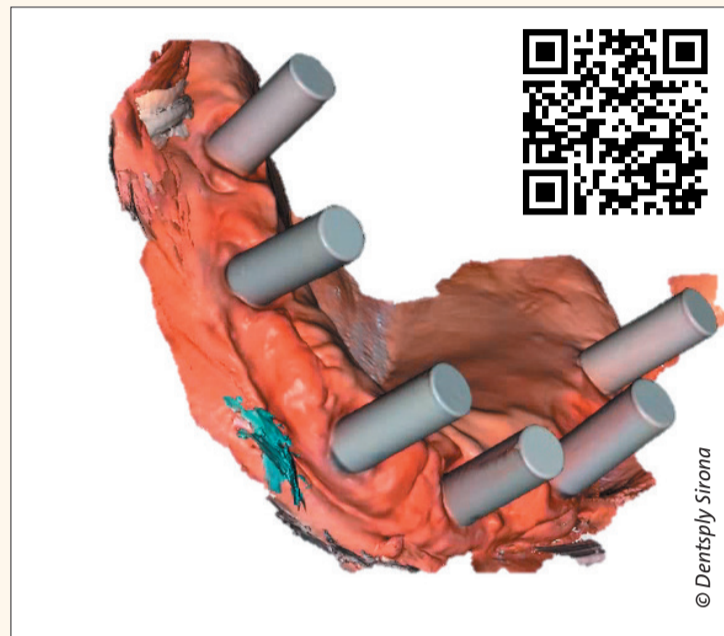
Connect SW 5.2 now supports bridges on implants

This Connect software update brings new possibilities to the implant workflows. Due to Primescan's very high level of accuracy, dentists can now perform long span implant supported bridges, for example "all-on-4" or "all-on-6" cases, depending on the individual case. This means a new indication for practitioners working with Connect Software.

CEREC Software 5.2: New features and benefits

Important, user-friendly changes and enhancements have also been introduced in CEREC Software 5.2. On top of being able to view the model directly without restoration selected to facilitate communication with patients, the entire CEREC Guide workflow has undergone improvements. The mode "Full Range Dynamic Occlusion" was introduced for the articulation calculation. This includes a wider range of lower jaw movement in the calculations and thus helps to detect more functional occlusal interferences*.

CEREC Primemill users can benefit from the software upgrade as well. Fast mode is now available for crowns made of IPS e.max CAD



Primescan is now the first and only intraoral scanner validated for a full digital workflow for full-arch fixed implant restorations with Atlantis suprastructures.

(Ivoclar Vivadent). Additionally, posterior and anterior crowns, direct screw-retained crowns, inlays and veneers can now regularly be produced using the Extra Fine grinding mode to create very smooth and very detailed restorations. Chairside

dentistry therefore takes another step forward with the CEREC Software 5.2.

"Primescan firmware enhancements make the digital workflow even faster and easier than before,"

explained Dr. Alexander Völcker, Group Vice President of Global Digital Solutions Marketing at Dentsply Sirona. "In addition to significantly increased speed, the smoothness of the scan has also been improved*. For clinicians working with Primescan in their practice, these improvements regularly mean more efficient workflows, even greater reliability and, at the same time, a very comfortable patient experience." ¹

More information about Primescan can be found at www.dentsplysirona.com/primescan.

Due to the different approval and registration times, not all technologies and products are immediately available in all countries.

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Inject and shape for easier, faster and stronger restorations

By Shofu

The need for easier, simpler and faster workflow is critical in dentistry, now more than ever before. Re-engineered nanotechnology with the development of unique S-PRG nano-fillers with nano-optimized silane technology, signals a new milestone in restorative dentistry.

Innovation of the next-generation of universal bioactive injectable composite - Beautiful Injectable X streamlines restorative workflow by offering predictable strength, durability, natural aesthetics with self-polishing capability and the unique "Inject as you Shape" convenience. Patented S-PRG fillers impart anti-plaque and anti-caries benefits for additional protection and longevity of the restoration.

Uniform filler microstructure imparts remarkable optical qualities for easy shade match and effortless, lasting polish with the OneGloss 2-in-1 Smart polishers.

Restore a wide spectrum of anterior and posterior restorations with ease as you can shape while injecting at

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Available in 2 distinct viscosities in 2.2 gm syringe:

- Beautiful Injectable X – Universal Restorative
- Beautiful Injectable XSL – Self-leveling high strength Flow ¹

For more information, please visit: <https://www.shofu.com.sg/product/beautiful-injectable-x/>.

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Hydrorise Implant

It is the Hydrorise System's range of scannable addition silicones formulated for professionals seeking high performance solutions

By Zhermack Dental

Hydrorise Implant has a high rigidity and is specifically developed for implant prosthodontics.

With Hydrorise Implant, the first impression will be the right one.

Formulated for implant prosthodontics

Hydrorise Implant is a high-rigidity and scannable addition silicone, specifically formulated for implant prosthodontics: a step forward in the world of implant impressions.¹

The greater rigidity of Hydrorise Implant viscosities compared to those of Hydrorise achieves greater

stability in transfers to impressions. It also ensures that the correct three-dimensional position is maintained even after removal from the oral cavity.

Its rigidity is perfectly balanced with its elasticity. In fact, to take impressions of implants, material must have ideal rigidity² while being sufficiently elastic to permit easy extraction from the oral cavity. Thanks to their elasticity, VPS can be considered the impression material of choice in these cases, especially in the presence of angulated implants³.

Tested reliability

Hydrorise Implant has all the characteristics needed to satisfy the lat-

est requirements in implant prosthodontics. Its reliability is tested. A recent in vitro study, undertaken by the Universities of Bologna and Padua, showed that Hydrorise Implant offers significantly greater accuracy and precision than polyethers: even under unfavourable conditions with unsplinted transfers, its performance is similar or better than that of the polyethers tested.¹ Everything contributes to accuracy, the picture is completed by some additional features:

Almost 100% elastic recovery

Hydrorise Implant products boast an excellent elastic recovery, of at least 99%.^{*} Material is therefore able to return to its original shape after the

deformation caused by removing the impression from the oral cavity, contributing further to the accuracy of the impression.^{**}

Tear resistance

Impressions taken with Hydrorise Implant resist tearing during removal from the mouth.

Accurate even days later

Impressions do not need to be cast immediately: the dentist and dental technician therefore enjoy greater flexibility in impression management. The dimensional stability of Hydrorise Implant helps maintain the accuracy of impressions for up to 21 days.

Moreover, impressions can be disinfected using products containing quaternary ammonium salts, mixtures of alcohol and surface tension reducers, such as Zeta 7 Spray and Zeta 7 Solution from Zhermack's Zeta Hygiene line, whilst maintaining their dimensional stability and surface detail reproduction even after disinfection.^{4,5}

Biocompatible, even on damaged mucosa

The high biocompatibility of Hydrorise Implant permits its use on healthy and damaged mucosa, thus offering the best possible guarantee of safety.

Safe for use even on intolerant patients

Hydrorise Implant addition silicones are gluten- and lactose-free, which guarantees peace of mind and safety even when used on intolerant patients.

Hydrorise Implant is the right choice for a precise and accurate implant

impression. To learn more, please visit www.zhermack.com. **DT**

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* 99% for Hydrorise Putty and Maxi Putty and 99.5% for all other viscosities of Hydrorise.
** ISO 4823:2015

Composan LCM and Composan LCM flow— light-curing micro-hybrid composites

By Promedica

Composan LCM is a universal light-curing micro-hybrid composite suitable for fillings in the anterior and posterior area and for the inlay technique. Its high filler content and well-balanced resin matrix guarantee minimal abrasion, low polymerisation shrinkage, as well as high compressive and transverse strength.

Perfect aesthetic results

Composan LCM convinces with its great colour stability, excellent polishing properties, perfect adaptation to the natural tooth colour and its tooth-like brilliance.

Therefore, fillings made of Composan LCM meet the highest aesthetic requirements of dentists and patients.

Also available as flowable version

Composan LCM flow is suitable for various indications like minimally

invasive preparation, fillings of Class III to V, extended fissure sealing, etc. Moreover, it is ideal for linings under composites due to its easy application and perfect adaption to the cavity walls and tooth substance. Composan LCM flow levels out irregularities of the cavity floor and reinforces the bonding layer. Owing to its elastic properties the material is also highly stress absorbing. Its low viscosity ensures good wetting capability and highly aesthetic results. **DT**

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Rev. 2020-09

Courtesy of Dr. A. Barbaglia

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[1] P. Baldissara , R. Meneghello , C. Parisi , A. M. Messias , F. Ghelli , L. Ciocca, HYPERLINK "https://cris.unibo.it/handle/11585/726162" Accuracy And Precision Of Impression Materials Designed For Implant Prosthodontics, in: IADR proceedings, 2019 (proceedings of the IADR/AADR/CADR 97TH GENERAL SESSION, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 19-22 June 2019) [Conference Proceedings-poster]

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