

## Ten reasons for pursuing zirconia implants

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Zirconia implants were introduced into dentistry as an alternative to titanium implants. This presentation makes an effort to summarize the advantages of zirconia over titanium and to illustrate the prospective of zirconia implants in solving clinical problems encountering in current daily practice: 1) The beautiful white tooth color of zirconia looks natural and does not seen through gum tissue; 2) Zirconia as a non-metal, ceramic material, has not been documented to cause an allergic reaction in patients; 3) Zirconia shows superior biomechanical properties like high fracture toughness and bending strength, giving zirconia implants the ability to withstand masticatory forces; 4) Results of clinical studies demonstrate that osseointegration of zirconia implants is comparable with titanium implants; 5) Zirconia is a biocompatible material, meaning that implants made of zirconia interact favorably with the human body and are non-toxic; 6) Zirconia implants have low plaque affinity creating an oral environment that promotes much healthier gums, small amounts of inflammatory infiltrate and good soft tissue integration leading to lower risk to peri-implant disease; 7) Zirconia implant addresses the patient's needs of health conscious, as the implant is white colored like a natural tooth and provides a highly esthetic and metal-free alternative to implants made of titanium; 8) Zirconia implants have been in use since the late 1980's in Europe and since 2007 in USA with very promising results reported; 9) the use of zirconia implants would avoid the problem of titanium ions release from titanium implants into the surrounding tissues that has been identified as one origins of peri-implantitis; 10) Blood flow in tissue surrounding zirconia is similar to that in soft tissue around natural teeth.