

# **Telescopic Dentures in Elderly Patients and Severely Reduced Dentitions**

Jürgen Setz

In the severely reduced dentition (less than 4 teeth) dentists face the question whether to extract the remaining teeth or to use them for support and retention of a denture. If the teeth are kept an attachment is needed to fix a denture to the teeth. Telescopic crowns (parallel milled primary crowns with precisely fitting secondary crowns) are one the options for an attachment. Although telescopic crowns are well established and well clinically investigated there is little information available about their use and benefit in elderly patients and severely reduced dentitions.

From 2002 to 2004 we started a prospective clinical study. 173 telescopic crowns with 82 dentures were inserted in 74 patients. There was a follow up every 6 months until 2014. The dentures showed very high patient satisfaction. The survival rate (Kaplan/Meier) for a telescopic crown in 10 years was 65 %. Survival of the telescopic crowns depended on number and distribution of teeth. About 80 % of the dentures still have at least one telescope for retention and support. About 20 % of the dentures lost all teeth and were transferred into a complete denture.

The lecture discusses clinical parameters that influenced the survival, complications and dental procedures which became necessary during the follow up. Finally new digital technologies are presented, which make the production of telescopic dentures easier.