



Fig 3: Selective application of Cervitec Plus, a varnish containing chlorhexidine, at the margin of the bar retainer



Fig 4: Sensitive areas must be treated with the chlorhexidine-containing Cervitec Gel on a regular basis.

Selective treatment of at-risk areas

Susceptible areas in existing natural teeth or restorations should be included in the treatment. Niches which offer harmful bacteria a potential place where they can accumulate may be successfully controlled with this strategy. The routine application of the product in the dental surgery has the added advantage of allowing implant-supported restorations to be monitored professionally (Fig 3). In many cases, the dexterity and/or compliance of the patient is inadequate for properly treating susceptible areas.

Oral hygiene at home

A professional care regime does not eliminate the need for thorough oral hygiene measures at home. The application of Cervitec Gel containing 0.2% chlorhexidine and 900 ppm fluoride at regular intervals reinforces the professional treatment measures. It helps to reduce the accumulation of plaque and harmful bacteria, and lowers the risk of inflammation of the gingiva and mucous membrane.

The gel is easy to integrate into the daily routine. It can be applied directly to the gingiva, oral mucous membrane or the inner surfaces of removable dentures. The smooth consistency of the gel allows the product to be applied with ease in proximal areas and around bar-retained dentures (Fig 4).

Alternatively, Cervitec Gel can be used instead of toothpaste. The gel, which also contains fluoride, should be used to brush teeth in the evening. In the morning, the teeth should be cleaned with toothpaste as usual. If this regime is diligently followed, neither discolouration nor impaired sense of taste is to be expected. Practical experience has shown that patients prefer the taste of Cervitec Gel to that of comparable chlorhexidine gels. This finding should not be underestimated, as the taste of the product promotes patient compliance and therefore helps to enhance the effectiveness of the treatment.

Summary

Implant-supported restorations require regular after-care measures to keep them in good condition for a long time. An effective maintenance programme should include gentle professional cleaning measures and the use of chlorhexidine preparations. **DA**

* RDA = Relative Dentin Abrasion

*Pictures: T. Duffing, Dentist & R. Gläser, DT

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