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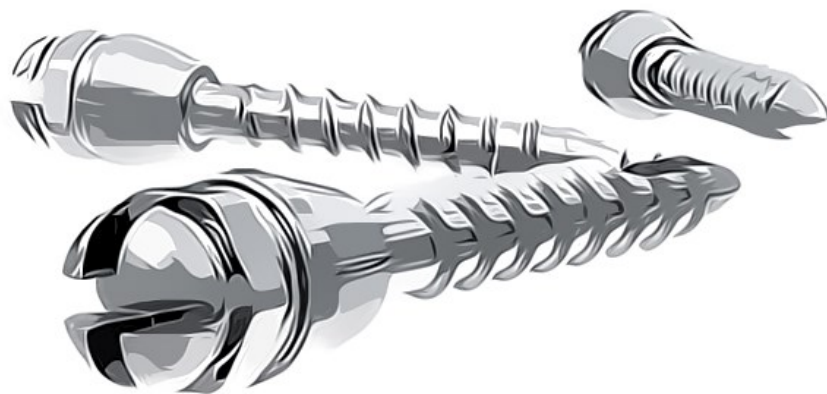
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The effect of surface characteristics and antimicrobial agents on the growth of biofilms on **Orthodontic mini-screw implants**

Thesis for partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Doctor of Clinical Dentistry in Orthodontics.



Shaneel Shastri



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College of Medicine and **Dentistry** | Department of **Orthodontics**



Submitted: March 2015

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List of abbreviations

Al	Aluminium
ANOVA	Analysis of variance of mean
AFM	Atomic force microscopy
ASOFRE	Australian Society of Orthodontists Foundation for Research and Education
CHX	Chlorhexidine
F	Fluoride
FCS	Flow Cytometry Standard
OMSI	Orthodontic mini screw implant
PMSF	Phenylmethanesulfonylfluoride
PI	Propidium iodide
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
TAD	Temporary anchorage device
TO	Thiazole orange
Ti-6Al-4V	Titanium alloy (Titanium, Aluminium, and Vanadium)
V	Vanadium

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Declaration

I, Dr. Shaneel Shastri, do solemnly and sincerely declare that this thesis has not been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any other University.

To the best of my belief, it contains no material published, except where due reference is made in the text. I give consent for this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the university Library to be made available for loan and photocopy. Every reasonable effort has been made to gain permission and acknowledge the owners of copyright material. I would be pleased to hear from any copyright owner who has been omitted or incorrectly acknowledged.

Dr. Shaneel Shastri BDSc.(Melb) FRACDS

Date:

Tuesday, June 09, 2015

Declaration of ethics

The research presented and reported in this thesis was conducted within the guidelines for research ethics outlined in the National Statement on Ethics Conduct in Research Involving Humans (1999), the Joint NHMRC/AVCC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice (1997), the James Cook University Policy on Experimentation Ethics, the Standard Practices and Guidelines (2001) and the James Cook University Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice (2001). The proposed research methodology received clearance from the James Cook University Experimentation Ethics Review Committee. (See Appendix A for copy of letter and approval number)

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Statement on the contribution of others

Contribution

Name

Assistance with proposal writing and project development

Professor Andrew Sandham
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Laboratory support and assistance

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Assistance with Data collection

Dr. Shane Askew
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Assistance with statistical support and interpretation

Dr. Susan Jacups

Professional editorial assistance

Dr. Don Gilchrist

Financial support

ASOFRE

Abstract

Background:

Orthodontic mini-screw implants (OMSI) have become largely popular in contemporary orthodontics to attain anchorage. However, a high rate of failure of these devices has been one of the disadvantages. One of the potential areas for failure that have been identified may be the aggregation of biofilm of these devices leading to peri-implant inflammation⁹. To date, the investigation into the various surface characteristics of various OMSI systems has been limited. Surface roughness has been identified as a factor involved in biofilm aggregation¹⁰.

Aim:

This study aims to compare the effect of surface characteristics and antimicrobial agents on the growth of biofilms on orthodontic mini-screw implants. The null hypothesis states that there will be no difference in the surface roughness or biofilm growth between implant groups. Furthermore, there will be no difference in the efficacy of antimicrobial agents.

Method and materials:

Four OMSIs with various surface finishes available in the Australian market were selected for the present study. They were: Vector – Anodised titanium alloy, TOMAS – machined titanium alloy, Leone – Stainless steel, and Aarhus Anodised titanium alloy. Five implants from each group were selected and tested under atomic force microscopy with a INTEGRA Modular AFM (NT-MDT, Moscow, Russia) and scanning electron microscopy Jeol JSM5410LV (Peabody, Massachusetts, USA) around the head and neck region. Each implant was measured at three random sites. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected for statistical analyses.

In a separate arm to the experimental process, biofilm was cultured around each implant group with flow cytometry utilized to determine which implant groups were more conducive to biofilm growth. Antimicrobial agents including Chlorhexidine, and Fluoride were also investigated to determine the effect these would have on biofilm grown on the selected OMSI groups.

Results and Discussion:

One way ANOVA revealed that between the implant groups, Vector OMSIs were shown to have the roughest surface (Mean surface roughness of 239.4 ± 71 nm ($p < 0.00$)). The roughness of the other groups showed no statistical significance. These findings were reflected in the SEM and bacterial studies which showed the Vector group to have a higher surface roughness as well as leading to increased biofilm growth. Interestingly, the Aarhus group (Mean surface roughness of 127.8 ± 30 nm ($p < 0.00$)), whilst not as rough as the Vector group also displayed increased biofilm growth. When comparing antimicrobial efficacy, Chlorhexidine was shown to be greater than twice as effective as fluoride when used as an antimicrobial agent in controlling biofilm around OMSI.

Conclusions:

This study shows that when investigating OMSI, increased surface roughness may result in increased biofilm growth. Anodized titanium alloy surfaces were found to be both the roughest, and most conducive to biofilm growth. This may be a factor in the operator choosing an appropriate OMSI system for use in their patients to limit the amount of biofilm growth. When comparing antimicrobial agents, chlorhexidine remains a better choice to effectively clean OMSI *in situ*.

Chapter 1

Literature review

1.1 Introduction

Orthodontics like many specialist facets of dentistry has benefited from the development and subsequent implementation of various technologies in clinical practice. Primitive and surprisingly well designed orthodontic appliances have been found with Greek, and Etruscan artefacts ^{11 12}. Archaeologists have even discovered Egyptian mummies with rudimentary precious metal bands wrapped around individual teeth, secured with what appeared to be cat gut wrapped around individual teeth¹³.

Traversing all of these millennia, while the fundamental principals of orthodontics remains, it seems our armamentarium now consists of self-ligating brackets, sequential clear aligners, cone beam computed tomography, distraction osteogenesis, bioengineering, robotically bent arch wires, and implants used as temporary anchorage devices (TADs) ¹⁴.

In particular, the usage of TADs and their implementation in orthodontics stems from the popularisation of implantology in restorative dental practice ¹⁵. Since the pioneering work of Brånemark ^{16 17 18} in the last century, the phenomenon of osseointegration has been studied and followed up in great detail¹⁹.

His definition of a direct contact between living bone and an implant, on the light microscope level describes the objective of osseointegration, but the essence of its clinical success is the reliability of long-term implant fixation, even in the presence of functional loading. This has been corroborated by various studies, reporting high success rates^{20 21}.

Such pioneering work has translated to clinical outcomes where it is possible to replace teeth with titanium analogues supporting homogenous or heterogeneous crowns. In addition, this technology is also being utilised not only to replace single teeth^{22 20} but multiple teeth^{23 24}, and in some cases entire arches^{25 26}.

Despite the exciting applications of dental implantology in restorative dentistry, this field is also able to offer much to the discipline of orthodontics.

During active orthodontic treatment, concept of anchorage aims to limit the extent of detrimental, unwanted tooth movement. It has been defined as “resistance to undesired tooth movement”²⁷. This notion of differential tooth control is one that has plagued orthodontics from its very inception, and proves to be difficult to regulate.

Edward Angle ²⁸ referred to the famous postulations of Newton to state that ;
“According to the well-known law of physics, action and reaction are equal and opposite, hence it must follow that the resistance of anchorage must be greater than that offered by the tooth to be moved, otherwise there will be displacement of the anchorage and failure in the movement of the teeth to the extent, or possibility, in the direction desired. The sources at our disposal for securing anchorage or resistance are, first, the teeth, themselves, and second, sources external to the teeth.”

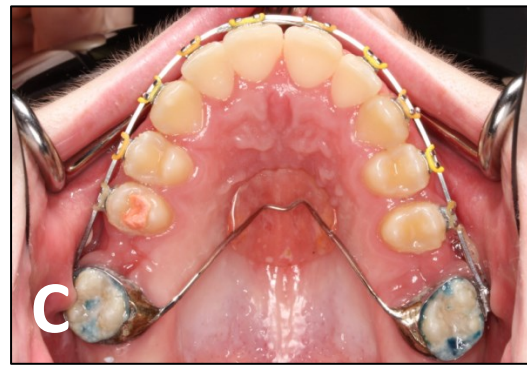


Figure 1.1 : Orthodontic devices to assist in anchorage control.

A – OMSI, B – Transpalatal arch, C – Nance appliance, D - Headgear.

Source : Dr. Shaneel Shastri



Figure 1.2 : Implants in dentistry:

A – Radiograph demonstrating an osseointegrated Brånemark fixture in vivo.

B – High power view of cellular processes growing onto a titanium surface.

Source : www.branemark.com³

1.2 The concept of absolute anchorage

To this day, anchorage remains a challenging concept in orthodontics and since Angle's work, a more intricate classification has been proposed by others including;

- Simple, reciprocal, inter-maxillary or extra oral (Ottofy ²⁹)
- Single, compound or reinforced (Moyers ³⁰)
- Maximum, moderate or minimum (Gianelly and Goldman ³¹)
- A, B or C type anchorage (Marcotte ³² and Burstone ³³)

Traditionally, orthodontics has been limited by our control of intraoral anchorage as reciprocal force expression inevitably leads to unwanted tooth movements. This necessitates prolonged treatment as time is spent undoing or controlling the sequelae. Consequently, the concept of *absolute anchorage* developed which describes zero anchorage loss on the reactive unit. This would imply implements that were not subject to the laws of physiological tooth movements.

Consequently, the skeletal system is described as the most plausible solution to gaining such an effect, and thus the term *skeletal anchorage* used sometimes synonymously, implying the same connotations as absolute anchorage.

Anatomically there are few locations intra-orally which can facilitate such an outcome. Perhaps the ankylosed tooth is a conventional and easily adaptable example of skeletal anchorage^{34 35}.

Extra oral devices such as headgear have been used successfully in the past to provide skeletal anchorage by transferring reactive forces to the head and neck^{12,36 37 38}. However these systems are often difficult to utilise and often rely almost completely on patient compliance.

These appliances consist of respective intraoral and extra oral components. Generally speaking, the intraoral components attached to the teeth and jaws through a combination of bands on the upper molars, and some type of baseplate if used in conjunction with a functional appliance. The extra oral components include a face bow and skeletal stabilization¹². Although the intraoral components are cemented to the teeth, the chance that they may shift is possible, though affecting the force vectors. This can occur through regular usage, diet, and/or physical trauma^{39 40}.

In addition, to be of any benefit, headgear is recommended to be worn for a minimum of 10 to 12 hours per day¹². These guidelines are perhaps formulated more to fit in with social appearances of patients rather than actual science.

Ideally, to have significant clinical effect headgear should be worn for 23 hours per day ⁴¹. Thus, since the inception of headgear, patient compliance has been the major drawback of its effectiveness ^{42 43}. Furthermore, the extra oral components of these devices are unsightly and potentially uncomfortable, especially while sleeping. It has been shown that such psychological, social and physical factors hinder patient compliance ^{44 45}.

Studies using headgear timers have shown that patients wear their headgear for less than 50% of the time that is actually prescribed by the clinician ^{46 47}. Growth is also a prerequisite for headgear treatment with younger patients who have not ceased growing the most suitable. It is even more challenging to gain compliance with this age group of people as they are often subject to complex social and psychological interactions during these formative years.

In addition, the force applied through these devices is often much greater than desired. The practitioner is required to carefully consider the force in relation to desired treatment outcomes. Oversight may result in inadequate or extreme forces leading to undesired outcomes or potentially even injury.

The work of Samuels ⁴⁸ showed that significant injury may occur through the use of headgear, some as serious as loss of eyesight.

Whilst recently, locking face bows have become available, which are much safer;⁴⁹ when headgear injury does happen the results can be catastrophic.

The pursuit for more predictable, effective, and acceptable methods of treatment has led to the development of TADs which fulfil these requirements.

TADs attempt to provide absolute anchorage, and allow opportunities to a new field of biomechanics with which better patient outcomes may be delivered.

This notion of skeletal anchorage is a paradigm shift as it forces us to revise traditional biomechanics in orthodontics⁵⁰. Tasks that were not possible or immensely difficult previously, have become plausible if not possible. For example, some of the possibilities of skeletal anchorage allow us to⁵¹:

- Retract and realign anterior teeth without posterior support
- Close edentulous spaces in molar extraction sites
- Correct centreline discrepancy when missing posterior teeth
- Re-establish transverse and antero-posterior position of isolated molar abutments.
- Stabilise teeth with reduced bone support
- Utilise orthodontic mechanics as an alternative to an orthognathic surgical procedure

1.3 The development of TADS in orthodontics

The notion of skeletal anchorage is not a new concept. Recognising the limitations of traditional methods of anchorage in 1945, Gainsforth and Higley⁵² placed vitallium screws in the ascending ramus of dogs to orthodontically move their canines. They found that all screws were lost with a range of survival from 16 – 30 days. Whilst they concluded that the development of such a method of anchorage was hopeful, they were sceptical as to the stability of the screws, and the risk of infection.

Furthermore, the first clinical implementation of a TAD was reported almost 40 years later in the literature by Creekmore and Eklund⁵³ in 1983. Once again, Vitallium bone screws were chosen to be inserted into the anterior nasal spine to treat a patient with a deep overbite.

With growing interest in the area, in 1969, Linkow placed blade implants to rubber bands rubber bands used to retract teeth. Unfortunately, he never presented any long term results⁵⁴.

In 1984, Roberts corroborated the use of implants in orthodontic anchorage⁵⁵. Following a delayed loading protocol, titanium screws were loaded for 4 to 8 weeks by stretching a spring between the screws. A high success rate was presented with all but 1 of 20 implants remaining rigid.

With growing momentum in the area, this paved the way for a myriad of subsequent studies which focused on the use and development of other means to obtain skeletal anchorage for orthodontic tooth movement. Among the investigated methods were:

- Conventional dental implants^{56 55 57 58 59}
- “Onplants”^{7 60 61 62 63 64}
- Miniplates^{65 66 67 68 69}
- Zygoma wires⁷⁰
- Palatal implants⁷¹
- Orthodontic mini-screw implants^{72 73 74}

It should be noted that the ideal properties of an implant used to enhance orthodontic anchorage have been described by Ismail, and Johal ⁷⁵ as being ;

- Biocompatible
- Inexpensive
- Easily inserted and removed under local anaesthetic
- Small enough to locate in multiple sites of the mouth
- Osseointegrate rapidly
- Stable to orthodontic loading in all planes of space.

Furthermore Cope ³⁵ classified the current available methods of skeletal anchorage as either bio compatible or biologic in nature. The biologic group included ankylosed and dilacerated teeth, whereas the biocompatible group included TADs. Further sub-classification was made to describe the manner in which they are attached to bone into biochemical (osseointegrated) or mechanical. Perhaps Labanauskaite ⁷⁶ provides the most thorough classification of implants used for orthodontic anchorage;

According to the shape and size	Conical (Cylindrical) i.e. Screws	Flat implants i.e. Mini Plates
According to the implant bone contact	Osseointegrated	Non-osseointegrated
According to the application	- Used only for orthodontic purposes (Orthodontic implants) - Used for prosthodontic and orthodontic purposes (Prosthodontic implants)	

Table 1.1 : Classification of temporary anchorage devices.

Source : Adapted from Labanauskaite 2005 ⁷⁶.

Conventional dental implants have also been used for orthodontic purposes^{57 58}
⁵⁹. In some instances where tooth replacement may be required as the end goal, this process is valuable as it allows the implants to play a dual role. Firstly, as a source of skeletal anchorage to help ascertain effective tooth movement⁷⁷. Secondly as a foundation for tooth replacement at the conclusion of treatment⁷⁸.

Interestingly, Kokich⁷⁹, Smalley⁸⁰ and Blanco⁸¹ have described protocols to determine accurate dental implant placement, ensuring their usability in the final desired location for restorative procedures. However their implementation remains difficult and prediction let alone control of space requirements are more dynamic than precise. Especially when tolerances with conventional dental implant planning are very small (0.5 – 1.5mm), this is usually a perilous task with zero margin for error.

In addition, one of the obvious disadvantages of two stage implants for orthodontic anchorage is the need for a protracted healing period (Commonly 3-6 months⁸²), which contributes significantly to the treatment time. In addition, due to their generally enlarged dimensions in comparison to the orthodontic counterparts, conventional dental implants often require increased bone volume to facilitate their placement.

As a result of these inherent limitations, this furthered the need to design specific implants for orthodontic purposes.

Block and Hoffman ⁸³ proposed a disc like structure referring to it as an 'onplant'. The onplant is a distinctive structure as it engages bone in a unique manner. It is a hydroxyapatite coated disk which is 10mm in diameter, and 3mm thick. The surgical placement involves adopting a tunnelling approach to the posterior aspect of the hard palate where the disk is secured by a smaller central screw. After a 10 - 12 week healing period, loading consists of connection of the onplant via orthodontic bands to the upper teeth by a transpalatal arch. It has been shown that this mechanism may resist greater than 300g of continuous orthodontic force ⁷, which is comparable to the force required in orthodontic systems to close extraction spaces. Following treatment, the onplant may be removed with an osteotome although many authors have raised objections to the possible clinical complications, and acceptance of this method by patients. Although the onplant addressed the issue of bone volume with respect to implant placement, there are numerous pitfalls including; a complex surgical procedure, a protracted healing time, limitations in where the device may be placed, and a traumatic retrieval process which may be disconcerting to the patient.

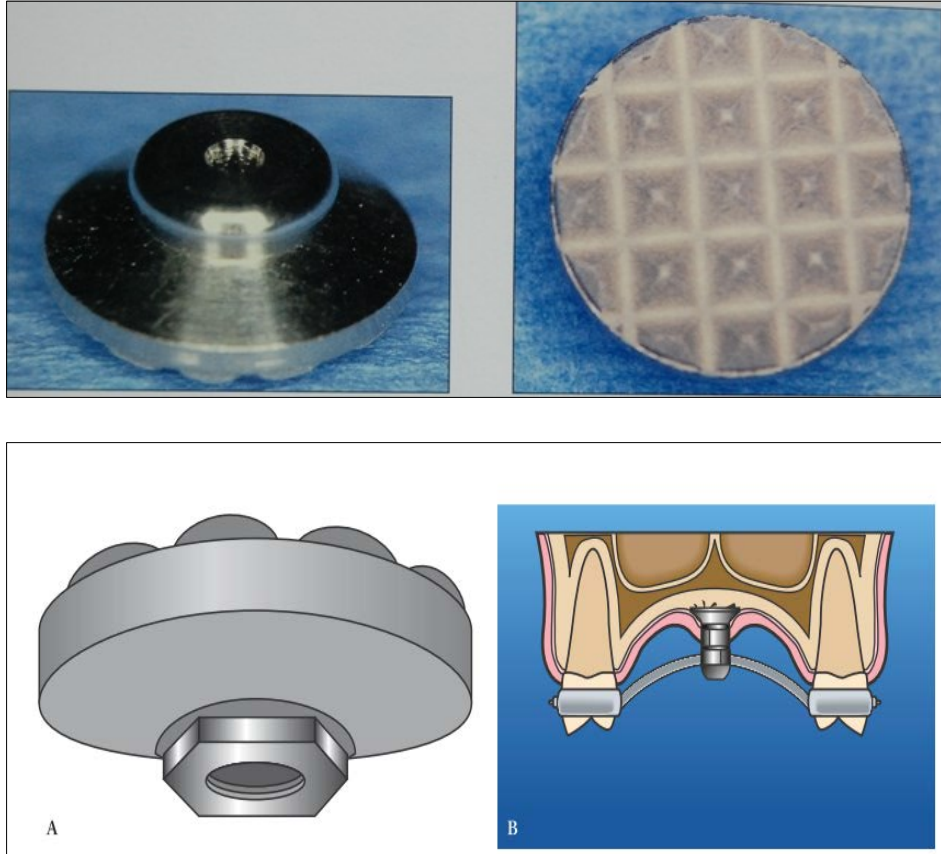


Figure 1.3 : Onplant type TADs.

A - Illustration of an onplant (Nobel Biocare, Göteborg, Sweden) as described by Block and Hoffman⁷.

B - Diagram of placement of the onplant connected to a transpalatal arch.

Source : Jaggi 2012 ⁸.

Another novel method to gain skeletal anchorage was advocated by Melsen⁷⁰. In extreme cases where no other solutions may be found, the region of the zygomatic arch and infra-zygomatic crest may be utilised in a method to loop ligatures around these structures to gain maxillary anchorage.

To utilise this method, it is suggested to drill a horizontal canal 1.0 cm lateral to the alveolar process. The entrance and exit holes should be in the superior portion of the infrazygomatic crest. Melsen used a 0.12 inch stainless steel ligature threaded through this canal and exposed into the oral cavity. The wire was loaded immediately as there was no need to wait for integration. When the ligatures are no longer needed, they may be removed under local anaesthesia as would sutures. This technique is inexpensive, does not require special equipment, and anchorage can be used immediately. However, there are anatomical limitations in the design of mechanics, as well as a potentially significant surgical approach to install the wires. In addition, the proximity to the orbit may be dangerous if infection were to track into these peri planar facial planes. Melsen has also noted that often when treatment was prolonged, the described zygoma wires migrated occlusally through bone! It is only Melsen who has described the use of zygoma wires in the literature.

Titanium miniplates similar to that used in the fixation of bone have also been reported in the as another means of skeletal orthodontic anchorage^{9 84 85 86 87}. Umemori⁸⁸ installed these miniplates using bone screws on the buccal cortical surfaces of the lower molars. Elastic threads were utilised to successfully intrude the lower molars to help correct open-bite malocclusion. This method proved to be simple, effective, and available almost immediately.

Most recently, the work of De Clerke showed that mini plates may be used for maxillary protraction in Class III skeletal corrective treatment^{89 90 91 92 93}.

It has been suggested that mini plates provide a high success rate comparable to that of orthodontic mini-screw implants^{94 76}, if not greater⁹⁵. Therefore, as far as stability is concerned, mini plates have an advantage over mini screw implants. In addition, for certain orthodontic movements requiring large forces, Umemori and Sherwood have suggested using mini plates on the grounds of their extensive stability and the ability to sustain larger forces^{87 66}.

However, to install them, miniplates need to be secured on multiple areas of cortical bone, and to cover the body of the plate sub-periosteally, a significant surgical procedure is required to install them. This requires soft tissue trauma, and hence operative, and post-operative discomfort^{96 97,98}.

Interestingly, Cornelis and De Clerke⁹⁹ found that patient's perception of mini plates including the postoperative discomfort was not significant comparing it to that of having restorative dental treatment completed. In addition, there are anatomic limitations in sites where miniplates may be considered making them less versatile than other types of TADs.

Triaca¹⁰⁰ was perhaps the first to consider the anterior region of the hard palate as a potential site for orthodontic implant placement. In addition, Wehrbein and Merz¹⁰¹ further investigated this suggested anatomical location by measuring the depth of bone in the mid-palatal on lateral cephalograms. Subsequently, the Straumann Orthosystem (*Institut Straumann AG, Waldenburg, Switzerland*) implant system was developed. The Orthosystem implant consists of a variable length, screw-type endosseous section, a cylindrical transmucosal neck and an abutment, to which a transpalatal arch attaches.

Although simplified to the method of Block and Hoffman⁷, the individual variation in depth and width of the mid-palatal suture, as well as proximity of the nasal floor in children, means that this location may not always be appropriate. In addition, the loading protocol is delayed in order to allow osseointegration, thus anchorage is not immediately available, nor is it adaptable to other sites in the oral cavity.

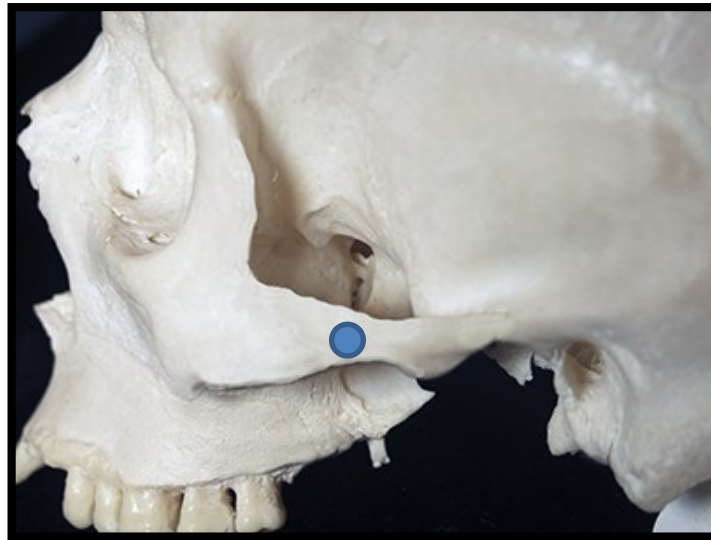


Figure 1.4 : Proposed location of zygoma wires.

Source : Melsen 2000 ²



Figure 1.5 : Examples of miniplates, and their usage.

Source : De Clerke 2011 ⁴.

Furthermore, the removal process of this implant requires the use of a trephine to cut out the osseointegrated implant, a process that can be traumatic, and predispose the patient to further morbidity.

Such large size palatal implants are still used today¹⁰², and advocated mainly for the reason that once osseointegration is achieved, it is difficult for the implant to fail during the treatment time, and anchorage is not lost.

In addition, the aforementioned study claim that overall treatment time may be reduced by as much as 5 months in comparison to a conventional dental anchorage control group. Further work is needed to investigate such claims, and it should be noted that popularity of large size palatal implants is declining due to the advent of orthodontic mini screw implants.

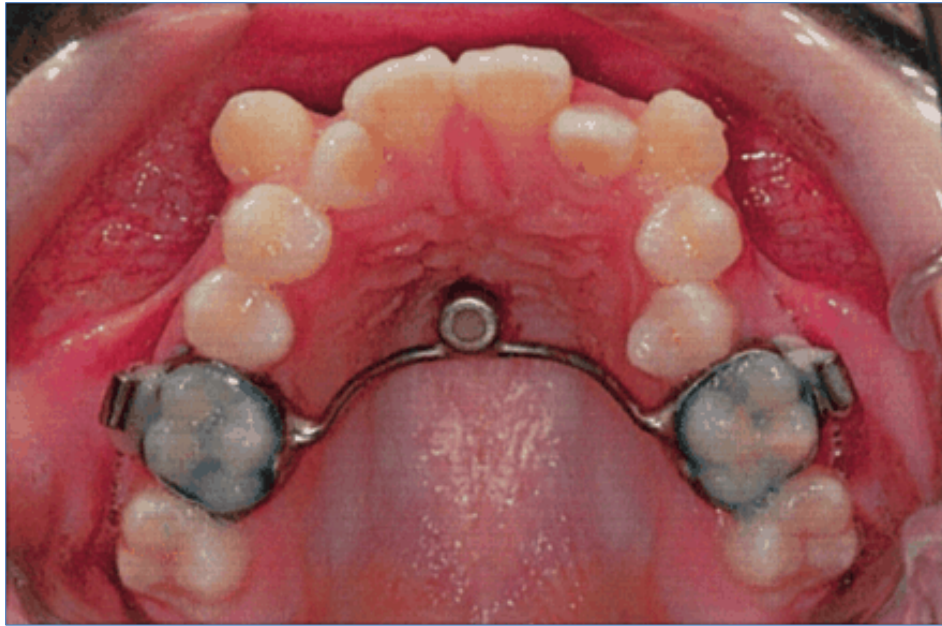


Figure 1.6 : Implant supported palatal arch

Source : Tinsley 2004 ⁵

1.4 The orthodontic mini screw implant

Despite an improvement in the initial designs, many of the criteria for the ideal implant as described by Ismail and Johal ¹⁰³ had still not been met. In particular, the increasing desire for early loading of implants used for orthodontic anchorage led to the rise of the other avenues ¹⁰⁴.

Notably, in 1997, Kanomi ¹⁰⁵ described a “mini-implant” specifically made for orthodontic use. This design was small (6mm in length and 1.2 mm in diameter) and easy to place or remove. The original design was developed from a mini-bone screw used for fixing bone plates. The author did not clarify how long the healing period would be to allow osseointegration, but did comment on the use of this implant for orthodontic space closure and molar distalization.

Furthermore, in 1998, Costa and Melsen ⁷³ presented a similar screw with a bracket like head. This design has been developed further and today is known as the Aarhus implant ². The comparatively smaller size was the significant benefit of this generation of TAD allowed an increase in potential intraoral locations of these devices. Even interdentally between the roots of adjacent teeth.

In addition, this design allowed osseointegration to occur even in the presence of immediate orthodontic loading, and could easily be placed and removed when no longer required. It seemed that the initial criteria proposed by Ismail, and Johal ⁷⁵ had been met. Several other mini-screw implants have been introduced, each presenting different designs and features, with clinical success and patient acceptance being described as good ⁹⁸. Some of the utilisation of OMSIs includes;

- Up righting tilted teeth ¹⁰⁶
- Retraction of individual of segments of teeth ^{107 108 109}
- Extrusion of individual or segments of teeth ¹¹⁰
- Intrusion of individual or segments of teeth ¹¹¹
- Stabilization of teeth ¹¹²
- To assist RME procedures ^{113 114 115 116}

Interestingly, OMSIs have recently been proposed as foundations for restorations in areas where conventional bone volume limited the placement of a conventional osseointegrated implant ^{117 118 119 120}, or in cases where growth has not ceased and an aesthetic, non-invasive solution is required. Further studies are required in this field however, the concept is exciting.

Table 1.2 : Comparison of treatment with and without TADs.
Adapted from Reynders 2009 ¹²¹.

	<u>Traditional orthodontic treatment</u>	<u>Orthodontic treatment with TADs</u>
1. Anchorage	-Teeth, extra-oral structures (headgear)	-Teeth, TADs.
2. Stability of anchorage	-Position of anchor teeth is not stable during treatment	-Position is stable during treatment.
3. Number of anchor teeth	-In order to get sufficient anchorage, more teeth must be included.	-For direct anchorage teeth are not necessary. Minimal numbers of teeth are need for indirect anchorage.
4. Treatment efficiency	-In applying force on teeth, part of it is wasted due to periodontal amortization.	-Applying force on implant it is directly transferred to the moving part of orthodontic system.
5. Duration of treatment	-There is no reliable anchorage for transferring the desirable number of teeth at once, thus treatment time elongates.	-Stable anchorage enables transference of force to maximal teeth at once, thus treatment time shortens.
6. Patient cooperation	-Obligatory	-Minimal
7. Treatment acceptability	-Most treatment devices restrict patient's motions, and no not meet aesthetic requirements.	-Minimal discomfort for patient.
8. Professionals involved	-Orthodontist	-Orthodontist and oral surgeon
9. Side effects	-Undesirable change in anchor teeth position	-None significant to be reviewed in literature

Table 1.3 : Comparison of the various types of TADs and their use in orthodontic treatment.

	<u>Prosthodontic implants</u>	<u>Orthodontic implants</u>			
		<u>Onplants</u>	<u>Miniplates</u>	<u>Palatal implants</u>	<u>Mini-screw implants</u>
Anatomic sites for implantation.	-Alveolar processes of maxilla and mandible -Zygomatic processes of maxilla	-Median suture of the palate -Paramedian	-Any structure where sufficient cortical bone exists. -Commonly posterior molar / pre molar area	-Median suture of the palate -Paramedian	-Any structure where sufficient cortical bone exists.
Patient's age	-Not used until cessation of skeletal growth	-Used after ossification of median suture or the palate	None	-Used after ossification of median suture or the palate	None
Time of loading	-Loading after osseointegration complete (3 – 6 months)	-Loading after osseointegration complete (3 – 6 months)	Loading after healing	-Loading after osseointegration complete (3 – 6 months)	-Immediate loading
Type of surgery	-Usually flap and or bone surgery required	-Flap surgery required	-Flap surgery required	-Perforation of the mucosa needed -Perforation of the palatal bone needed	-Perforation of the mucosa needed
Postsurgical morbidity	-Variable dependent on surgical protocol -Usually swelling and or pain remain for a significant period (1-2 weeks)	-Usually swelling and or pain remain for a 1 week	-Usually swelling and or pain remain for a 1 week	-Minimum patient discomfort	-Minimum patient discomfort
Usage	-Mainly for restorative purposes -Can also be used for orthodontic anchorage.	- Orthodontic anchorage -Removed after treatment	- Orthodontic anchorage -Removed after treatment	- Orthodontic anchorage -Removed after treatment	- Orthodontic anchorage -Removed after treatment
Size	-3.0 – 6mm diameter -6mm – 18mm length.	-10mm diameter -2mm thickness	-2mm diameter -5mm (screw) length	-3mm diameter -4-5mm length	-1-3mm diameter -6-14mm length
Side effects	-High biological, financial, and time cost if an implant is to be lost. -Improper placement may lead to a failure of function and aesthetics.	-Propensity for Infection -Difficulty in removing	-Propensity for Infection -Surgical procedure required for removal	-Minimal	-Minimal

1.4.1 Definitions and classification

Due to such a varied development of anchorage devices, the literature is peppered with language such as mini-implants, mini-screws, micro-implants, orthodontic implants, intraoral extra dental anchorage systems ², temporary anchorage devices ¹²², mini-plates and micro-screws. Although these are terms all used to describe various systems of skeletal anchorage, one would expect that such a hazy terminology may lead to confusion. Especially with the advent of other aspects of dental implantology.

For example, implants, and mini-implants make reference to systems which by Brånemark's definition imply that osseointegration occurs prior to loading. It has been shown that this is not a completely accurate method to describe the majority of systems skeletal anchorage in orthodontics today ^{123 73 124 125 2}.

In 2005, Carano and Melsen ⁹⁹ suggested that the word mini-implant should be applied both to palatal implants, mini-implants, mini-screws, and to micro-screws.

In addition, often, the prefixes mini- and micro- are concurrently used to describe implants or screws of the same dimension without any differentiation.

It must be noted however that the word micro pertains to extremely small dimensions, usually better observed with the optical assistance of a microscope¹²⁶. Thus it has been advocated that the term mini-screw implant is more appropriate¹²⁷. Since the arrival and popularisation of mini dental implants¹²⁸, and to avoid confusion with these counterparts more frequently used in restorative dentistry, this report will refer to mini-screw implants as orthodontic mini-screw implants (OMSIs).

1.4.2 Indirect and direct anchorage

Anchorage provision through OMSIs have further been classified to provide two different types of anchorage: direct and indirect ¹²⁹. Indirect anchorage involves the units be connected through bars or wires to the reactive unit. In this situation the OMSI stabilizes multiple teeth, which then serve as an anchor unit. The most common method of achieving indirect anchorage is by placing an OMSI in the midpalatal or retromolar regions, which are then linked to the natural teeth by means of a wire or other rigid fixation device, such as a transpalatal arch ¹³⁰.

Indirect anchorage has also been suggested to reduce the peri-implant loading of the bone, and to reduce the risk of loosening OMSIs ¹³¹. Holberg et al. ¹³¹ suggested in their FEM analysis, that the more anchor teeth were integrated into the anchoring block with indirect anchorage, the smaller was the peri-implant loading of the bone.

Direct anchorage refers to any situation in which forces that originate from the actual implant itself are used to augment anchorage.

An example would be a restored dental implant with an orthodontic bracket bonded to the restoration, or any mechanics attached to an OMSI ¹³². Both methods provide a high level of stability and are equally useable in orthodontic tooth movement depending on the clinical situation they are utilised in.

It has been suggested that indirect anchorage is more versatile, and favourable for a number of reasons as previously outlined ¹²⁹.

1.4.3 Types and properties

Between the currently available orthodontic mini-screw implants, significant differences exist in relation to their composition, size, and design. These may include; the materials used for fabrication, dimensions - diameter, the threaded portion, dimensions - length and the design of the head. Consequently, there are a number of commercially available orthodontic mini-screw implant systems available today, with the amount of manufacturers increasing rapidly.

As can be seen in the history and development of TADs, innovation remains an important in driving the succession of technology. However, it remains that science is often catching up to validate the application of such technology. The importance of evidence based medicine ¹³³ is well documented and pivotal in order to ensure clinical decisions and protocols are supported with science.

Currently, the literature shows a lack of evidence in determining what surface characteristics the ideal OMSI possesses ⁵¹.

Table 1.4 : Table of currently available mini screw systems

<u>Product</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Website</u>	<u>Material</u>	
1. Ancor Pro System	Ortho Organisers, USA	www.OrthoOrganisers.com	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined (Anodised)
2. Aarhus Anchorage System	MEDICON eG, Germany ScanOrto A/S, Denmark	www.medicon.de	Ti-6Al-4V ELI ASTM F136-02	Ti machined (Anodised)
3. AbsoAnchor System	Dentos, Korea	www.dentos.co.kr	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
4. Benefit System	PSM Medical Solutions, Germany	www.psm.ms	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
5. C - Implant	Dentium Inc., Korea	www.implantium.com www.cimplant.com	Commercially pure titanium	Sandblasted large grit and acid etched
6. Cizeta – Titanium miniscrew	Cizeta Surgical, Italy	www.cizetasurgical.it	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
7. Dual Top Anchor System	Jeil medical, Korea Distributed by RMO Inc., USA	www.jeilmed.co.kr www.rmortho.com	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (ASTM F 136) (Pure titanium)	Ti machined surface
8. IMTEC Mini Ortho Implant	IMTEC Corporation, USA	www.imtec.com www.3Munitek.com	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
9. TOMAS Orthodontic Mini Anchorage Screw	Mondeal Medical Systems, Germany	www.mondeal.de	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
10. Miniscrew Anchorage System (MAS)	Micerium S.p.A., Italy	www.micerium.it	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
11. Orthoanchor K1 System	Dentsply Sankin Corporation, Japan	www.dentsply-sankin.com	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
12. Orho EASY System	Foresta dent, Germany	www.forestadent.com	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined (Anodised)
13. ORLUS System	Ortholution, Korea	www.ortholution.com	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined Acid etched
14. Orthodontic Mini Implant (OMI)	Leone S.p.A., Italy	www.leone.it	Surgical stainless steel (ISO 5832/1)	Ti machined surface
15. Spider Screw Anchorage System	HDC, Italy	www.hde-italy.com	Commercially pure Ti	Ti machined surface
16. Temporary Mini Orthodontic Anchorage System TOMAS	Dentaurum, Germany	www.dentaurum.de	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined surface
17. Vector TAS System	Ormco, USA	www.ormco.com	Ti-6Al-4V ELI (Grade 23)	Ti machined (Anodised)

1.4.4 Biocompatibility

Historically, the usage of other materials in implant manufacture has also been attempted. For example; gold alloys, vitallium, cobolt-chromium, vitreous carbon, aluminium oxide ceramics, and nickel chromium-vanadium alloys¹³⁴.

Vitreous carbon implants showed a failure rate of 67 per cent¹³⁵ when undergoing orthodontic loading. In addition, Bioglass-coated¹³⁶ ceramic implants used for orthodontic anchorage were also unsuccessful. Despite the biocompatibility of these materials, these failures are believed to be attributed to an inability to osseointegrate.

Titanium of high medical grade (Type 4 or 5), has been shown to be both biocompatible, and capable of achieving osseointegration¹³⁷. Consequently most systems available today are manufactured with medical type IV or type V titanium alloy. However due to an increase in demand, the cost for titanium is becoming more expensive¹³⁸. Consequently, there has been movement to explore other material for manufacture of OMSIs ; i.e. Orthodontic Mini Implant (Leone S.p.A.), which is fabricated from stainless steel.

Stainless steel is one of the most frequently used oral surgical and orthopaedic implant materials because of a favourable combination of mechanical properties, biocompatibility, cost-effectiveness, and manufacturing ease^{139 140}.

A large volume of literature is available on titanium alloy mini-implants and their types, properties, and loading behaviour^{141 125 142}. In contrast, reports regarding the use of stainless steel mini-implants are scarce. Interestingly it has been demonstrated that stainless steel is more resistant to failure than titanium. However, its overall performance as material for OMSIs could be inferior to titanium¹⁴³. Furthermore, there are variants of titanium implants including rough or smooth surfaces, and the presence or absence of an additional hydroxyapatite or titanium spray coating¹⁴⁴. Interestingly, cellular response to grade 5 titanium has been shown to be superior¹⁴⁵, however, the overall conclusion remains that material type is less of a significant factor with respect to OMSI retention¹⁴⁶.

Recently a new design of biodegradable implant has been proposed¹⁴⁷. It is designed to provide orthodontic anchorage similar to that of the orthodontic mini-screw, however instead of surgical removal, once redundant it is resorbed through foreign body reaction. The implant, which is made from a biodegradable polylactide, has shown adequate loading capacity for clinical application in orthodontics¹⁴⁸.

1.4.5 Osseointegration of OMSI

Roberts ¹⁴⁹ used conventional, two stage titanium implants in the retro-molar region, to help reinforce anchorage whilst successfully closing first molar extraction sites in the mandible. After completion of the orthodontic treatment, the implants were removed using a trephine and histologically analysed. A high level of osseointegration was found to have been maintained, despite the orthodontic loading. In another study, Turley ¹⁵⁰ used tantalum markers and bone labelling dyes in dogs to illustrate the stability of two stage implants in cases of orthodontic or orthopaedic traction. Whilst many of the original studies were completed with sources of skeletal anchorage that had osseointegrated, there is a question whether a full implant osseointegration is needed in orthodontics when relatively small forces are applied.

In a review of studies exploring implantable orthodontic anchorage, Favero ¹⁵¹ postulated;

“Some studies have shown that implants loaded early on, although not presenting intimate bone-to-bone contact [osseointegration] because of the formation of a pseudo-peri-implant fibrous ligament appeared to be sufficiently stable and capable of sustaining the function of anchorage with normal orthodontic forces. Did these represent failures, because osseointegration did not occur, or successes, because the anchorage was achieved anyway?”

Currently it is believed that complete osseointegration of screws used in OMSI is a disadvantage as it complicates the removal process ¹⁵². Although surface characteristics for mini-implants include etched and sandblasted varieties, many of these devices are manufactured with a smooth surface, minimizing the adaptation of biological tissues. Furthermore, Chaddad ¹⁴⁴ showed that surface characteristics between machined titanium, and sandblasted acid etched surfaces did not affect the survival of immediately loaded OSMI.

Interestingly, one manufacturer (C-Implant), continues to manufacture and promote a sandblasted acid etched surface. There has been some evidence to suggest that this type of surface treatment is more conducive to osteocytes ¹⁵³ ¹⁵⁴ ¹⁵⁴. However, whilst OMSIs are considered to achieve their retention purely mechanically, the notion of osseointegration should not be dismissed entirely ¹⁵⁵. OMSI with varying surfaces to encourage osseointegration have been used successfully ¹⁵⁶. In addition, limited osseointegration has been demonstrated in both *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* studies. ¹⁵⁷ ¹⁵⁸

1.4.6 Thread and body design

The thread and body of the various implant systems can either be conical (eg. Aarhus Anchorage System, the AbsoAnchor System). Alternatively, it may be parallel, with tapered ends (eg. Orthodontic Mini Implant). Both designs have been proven to have close approximation with bone after insertion^{159 160 144}, as well as effective¹⁶¹ at successfully maintaining orthodontic loads. However, Wilmes¹⁶² described clinically significant correlation between the two, with conical threaded designs achieving superior primary stability in comparison to the cylindrical design. This is a finding corroborated by others^{163 164 165}.

It has further been shown that conical fixtures are more likely to fail in the mandible than conical fixtures in the maxilla due to the variation in type and quality of the bone¹⁶⁶. This is thought to be as a result of increased torque concentration as a result of geometric concentration, and the denser cortical bone.

Based on its radiographic appearance and the resistance at drilling, bone quality has been classified in four categories:

- **Type 1;** bone in which almost the entire bone is composed of homogenous compact bone.
- **Type 2;** bone in which a thick layer of compact bone surrounds a core of trabecular bone;
- **Type 3;** bone in which a thin layer of cortical bone surrounds a core of trabecular bone;
- **Type 4;** bone characterized by a thin layer of cortical bone surrounding a core of low density trabecular bone of poor strength.

These differences in bone quality can be associated with different areas of anatomy in the upper and lower jaw. The mandible is generally more densely corticated than the maxilla and both jaws tend to decrease in their cortical thickness and increase in their trabecular porosity as one moves from the anterior, towards the posterior. This poses significant implications when placing any type of dental implant.

It has been shown by the above authors that the tapering nature of these fixtures concentrates forces and thus leads to high levels of torque. Highly increased torque when placing mini-implants has been shown to lead to higher failure rates^{167 168 169}. This increased torque may lead to micro damage of the bone and surrounding tissues, including necrosis and local ischemia^{170 171 167}.

Perhaps conical type fixtures may be considered in the maxilla, as the generally lower quality of this bone reduces the likelihood of force concentration – a factor that has been echoed in the literature.

Furthermore, thread design is also a consideration that affects stability and torque when placing or removing OSMI. Kim et al.¹⁷² found that dual-thread designs generally show a low insertion torque however higher removal torque than cylindrical and tapered designs. Perhaps dual threaded designs may be incorporated into conical OMSI design to reduce the high levels of insertion torque discussed in the literature.

When attempting to place OMSIs in densely corticated regions of the mouth two delivery systems have been proposed; self-drilling and self-tapping. The self-drilling OSMI is designed with a piercing tip to penetrate the overlying tissues and bone. It is attached to a handpiece or manual screwdriver, and drilled directly through the soft tissues and bone into its final and desired location.

The self-drilling system is generally less invasive with no surgical flap being needed, consequently this results in less post-operative discomfort and patient acceptability⁹⁸. It has also been suggested that this leads to faster healing and a decreased risk for infection¹⁷³. In addition, it has been illustrated that self-drilling screws offer more osseous resistance than self-tapping screws¹⁷⁴. However, the self-drilling systems may cause increased pressure and damage to the overlying, and deep tissues the effects of which have been discussed.

In addition, there has been speculation that soft tissue fragments and bacteria from the oral cavity can become transported through the flutes of the OSMI into the bone. To the author's knowledge, the effects of this have not been described in the literature.

The self-tapping mini-implant does not possess a piercing end, but rather a flat or dome shaped end. A surgical flap is usually raised to visualize the bone so that a pilot hole may be drilled with a handpiece to guide the OMSI. The pilot hole may be partially or completely through the bone depending on the amount of resistance. The OMSI is then placed into the pilot hole and screwed into its final location.

Self-tapping systems offer greater control in the location of OMSIs, however due to the soft tissue trauma, a longer healing time and postoperative discomfort may be expected. In addition, there is a risk that the more aggressive rotary instrumentation required to pre drill these sites, despite their non-cutting tips may cause propensity to damage dental apices.

It has also been suggested recently that improper technique, and or selection of pre-drilling the site may lead to reduced primary stability for the OMSI ¹⁷⁵. In his study, Fritz et al¹⁷⁶ omitted pilot holes in the maxilla and, when appropriate, in the mandible, since they could impair the primary stability of the implants. For self-tapping OMSI, the diameter and the length of the implant has been recommended to be 0.2 to 0.5 mm larger than the width and the depth of the bone hole for optimal placement torque¹⁷⁷. This was the most important factor for successful immediate and early loading ¹⁷⁸.

Furthermore, Motoyoshi et al. ¹⁷⁹ found that insertion torques of 5 – 10 Ncm was adequate when placing OMSI in both the mandible and maxilla. In addition, Otani et al ¹⁸⁰ reported that failure rate was particularly high for self-drilling mini-implants (diameter 1.6 mm, length 6.0 mm) placed into adult female maxillary buccal alveolar bone with a torque of either less than 5.0 Ncm or more than 16.3 Ncm.

Although 5 – 10 Ncm is currently accepted as the “gold standard” with respect to insertion torque of OMSI, conflicting evidence can also be found in the literature ^{144 181 182}. In addition, a recent systematic review on the topic of insertion torque regarding OMSI has been deemed inconclusive ¹⁷⁸.

Wawrzinek et al. ¹⁶⁷ also examined the cortical bone surrounding mini-implants using SEM, and found microstructural damage due to over-tightening via deep insertion of orthodontic mini-implants, but they did not examine the histology of the surrounding cortical bone. In the mandibular model used in this study, cracks in the surrounding cortical bone were observed in the self-drilling group and in the pre-drilling group that used pilot holes 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, and 1.0 mm in diameter. In the maxillary model, no cracks were observed in the surrounding cortical bone in any of the groups. In another similar study, Tachibana et al. ¹⁸³ also found that self-drilling in the maxilla without a pilot drill was acceptable, whilst in the mandible; a pilot hole of 1.0mm in diameter is recommended. This was corroborated by Uemura et al who came to similar findings ¹⁸⁴. Overheating of the pilot drill causing bone damage, might also contribute negatively, thus copious irrigation with saline when drilling is recommended. Stress concentration, is a vital factor when torqueing OMSI. Due to their smaller dimensions, it is important to appreciate the limitations of the materials. For example, thread stripping and implant fracture can occur if maximal torques are reached ^{179 185}.

1.4.7 Bone quality and OMSI stability

Bone quality, and biology are the underpinning factors regarding orthodontic treatment, and also treatment with OSMI.

With conventional dental implants, it is not primarily the ratio of cortical bone to trabecular bone that influences implant stability as much as the absolute amount of dense cortical bone. Cortical bone has a higher modulus of elasticity than trabecular bone, is stronger and more resistant to deformation. Consequently, it will bear more loads in clinical situations than trabecular bone. What applies to traditional dental implants also applies to orthodontic mini-implants: thicker cortical bone provides greater primary stability. In addition, there have been various systems proposed to describe bone quality in dental implantology¹⁶⁶.

In the case of conventional dental implantology osseointegration is a prerequisite for functional loading of the implant. However, when considering OMSIs, it is not necessary to wait for bone healing and osseointegration to occur because a OMSI gains its primary stability from mechanical retention and can support immediate orthodontic loads¹²⁴.

The maximum load for a non-integrated implant has been shown to be proportional to the surface area of the implant in contact with the surrounding bone¹⁸⁶.

Higher failure rates of OMSIs have been experienced by clinicians where they were placed in patients with reduced cortical bone thickness. Miyawaki¹⁸⁷ reported that the failure rate of OMSIs was correlated with the mandibular plane angle, but other factors, such as screw diameter and that peri-implant inflammation, may also contribute to failure^{187 177}. Furthermore, it has been proposed that in sites with extremely dense bone such as the mandible, the median parts of the upper alveolar ridge and the hard palate, the recipient site should be predrilled carefully, and with an appropriate sized drill to avoid unwanted risks such as implant fracture, and poor angulation.

According to *Costa*¹⁸⁸ and *Miyawaki*¹⁸⁷, cortical bone quality and quantity are major factors associated with the primary stability of OMSI, most likely because it is achieved by mechanical retention rather than osseointegration. Wilmes et al¹⁸⁹ found that cortical bone thickness has a strong effect on the primary stability of OMSIs. Placement torque and pull-out strength of OMSIs have also been correlated with cortical bone thickness¹⁹⁰.

Thicker cortical bone has been reported for the mandible than the maxilla, with bone in the mandibular buccal region reported to be thicker than bone in the mandibular lingual region. This has been shown to range from between 1.09 to 2.12 mm in the maxilla and 1.59 to 3.03 mm in the mandible.

Furthermore, at the same site in respective jaws, moving in an apical direction, cortical bone became thicker. There also appears to be differences in each jaw with the thickest cortical bone in the molar region, followed by the premolar and incisor regions, respectively. This has been hypothesised to reflect the loading characteristics of the respective teeth. Molars tend to accept the highest force, and hence have maximum osseous support – hence thicker cortical bone.

Thicker cortical bone in the buccal region of the mandible might be explained biomechanically. Whereas the mandible is under torsional and bending strains, the maxilla is generally subjected to more compressive forces. It has also been demonstrated that regions that experience higher strain during function develop thicker cortical bones¹⁹¹.

Baumgaertel¹⁹² studied palatal bone depth with respect to orthodontic implant placement in adults and found that cortical bone depth decreases as we move from anterior to posterior. He found the mid palatal suture to be a good site for implant placement, with the area in line with the first and second premolars being the best. In addition to bone volume diminishing as one proceeds more posteriorly, soft tissue also thickens, and the presence of significant blood vessels and nerves increases risk of implant placement.

This notion was echoed by Laursen and Melsen in their recent cadaver study using micro-CT¹⁹³. These authors also extrapolated that changing the fixture insertion angle to 45 degrees will generally enhance implant stability, but may increase perforation to the maxillary sinus when placing these fixtures in the maxilla. Similar findings have been reported by other authors¹⁹⁴

Baumgaertel¹⁹⁵ also suggested that the posterior palate should be encouraged as a placement site for OMSIs. In a recent symposium, others have also advocated the palate as a more favourable site for OMSI implantation as it provides more favourable characteristics including increased bone volume in comparison to other sites. Moreover, by inserting into the palate, any orthodontic tooth movement is not limited by the placement of the OMSI – a factor inter-radicular placement is affected by.

The localised anatomy, and bone morphology is vital in the placement of OMSI. Due to the great deal of anatomical variation in individuals, volumetric analysis is suggested to investigate cortical bone thickness prior to making any clinical decision. Interestingly, numerous studies have concluded that available bone is more voluminous than what is apparent in radiographic survey including CBCT and cephalometric analysis, allowing for a “safety distance” to be pre-built into clinical decisions on implant length.

Interestingly, Ansari et al.¹⁹⁶, demonstrated that arch form also has a relationship on cortical bone thickness with square arch form having statistically significant thickness in cortical bone. This study also suggested that patients with ovoid arch form may require implants with increased features promoting primary stability as these arches suggested deficient cortical bone.

Other variations’ between sexes have suggested that females have lesser volume of cortical bone in the anterior buccal region than males, although other studies have not correlated differences in gender and cortical bone volume.

1.4.8 Length of implants

In addition, OMSI are available in different lengths and diameters to facilitate placement at various anatomical sites. Although the work of Costa et al¹⁸⁸ has shown that OMSI of length 4 to 6 mm are safe in most regions, individual variation necessitates volumetric analysis and evaluation of bone depth in all patients to minimise unwanted effects. Most OMSIs are available in length from 4.0 to 12.0 mm^{197 198}. However in some cases increased length is required. There have been reports of OMSI of length 14.0mm¹⁹⁸ and even 21.0 mm¹⁹⁹ being used.

Miyawaki et al¹⁸⁷ has reported that there is no association in the length of the screw with its stability if the screw is at least 5 mm long. In addition, Fritz et al.¹⁷⁶ has suggested that 4 mm long screws offer adequate stability when compared with 6 mm and 8 mm screws. Also Cheng et al.²⁰⁰ and Kanomi¹⁰⁵ argue that smaller and rather short implants serve the purpose as well. However due to the reduction in length, the primary stability is reduced which then has to be recovered by the stabilising edge and threads²⁰¹.

Interestingly, another study by Chen²⁰² has found that the success rate of OMSI rose from 72% to 90% by using 8-mm instead of 6-mm long screws. Other studies have also corroborated this showing higher success rates with additional length at the same diameter.^{203 197 202 198 204}

When selecting length of an OMSI, it must be noted that due to varying transmucosal thicknesses, one must be careful to select a length that will ensure most of the implant is anchored in bone, rather than soft tissue. The latter will obviously have poor implications for the success of the implant²⁰⁵.

Tseng et al¹⁹⁸ also found that length of the OMSI was an important risk factor, correlating it to success. These authors emphasized that the actual depth of insertion of implant was more important than its length, the recommended length being at least 6 mm - Possibly to account for the transmucosal thickness. This is in accordance with the general findings in the field of dental implantology, where the shorter and smaller diameter implants have led to lower survival rates than their counterparts²⁰⁶.

Bicortical OMSI have also been suggested by some authors^{207 208 6}. This involves placing the OMSI across the entire width of the alveolus, usually engaging both cortices. Brettin et al⁶ showed that such a system could provide a force system with superior force resistance and stability (anchorage) compared with monocortical placement. They found that deflection force values were significantly greater for bicortical than for monocortical screws, concluding that bicortical OMSI placement provides superior anchorage resistance, reduced cortical bone stress, and superior stability than monocortical placement.

In addition, it has also been suggested that since vertical placement does not impact mean anchorage force resistance, placement of either a monocortical or a bicortical screw in a more coronal position within attached gingiva limits the possibility of peri-implant inflammation^{9,125}.

Furthermore, as well as providing an environment more receptive of biological compatibility, coronal placement of screws may also be biomechanically advantageous because they are closer to the centre of resistance of the teeth²⁰⁹.

However, despite their inherent advantages in terms of maximal anchorage and stability, the major disadvantage is the surrounding anatomic limitations.

Placement of such devices is generally riskier with greater propensity to injure structures. Furthermore, manoeuvring such long screws inside the oral cavity may be difficult in the posterior areas, where cheek retraction is a limitation. Perhaps one instance where bicortical screws may be utilised is where a conventional diameter monocortical screw has failed, and a larger diameter monocortical screw would jeopardise adjacent structures²⁰⁹.

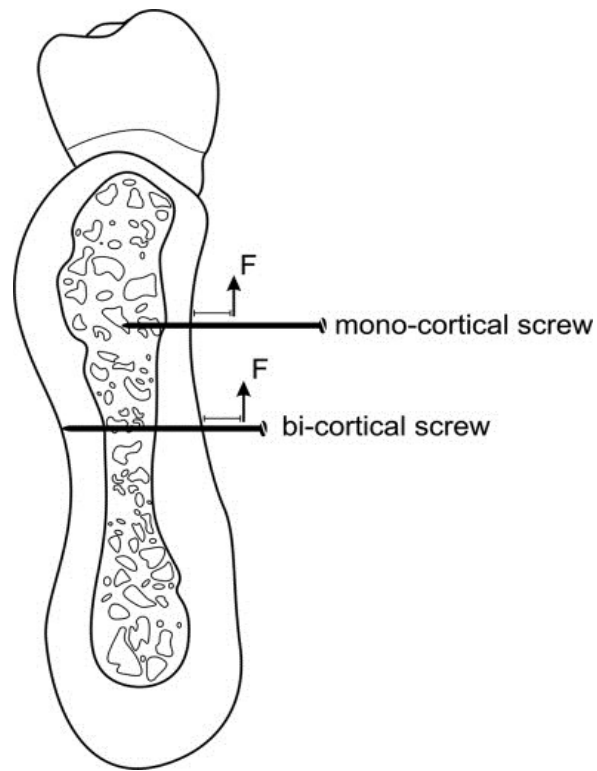


Figure 1.7 : Orthogonal view of monocortical and bicortical OMSI placement in bone specimen.

Source Brettin et al. 2008 ⁶

1.4.9 Diameter of implants

Diameter of the orthodontic mini-screw implants is also an important factor affecting their placement. For example, a narrow implant may be more easily and safely inserted to sites with root proximity without the risk of root contact. On the other hand, a narrower diameter combined with shearing and torsional stresses during the placement and removal of implants may lead to an increased risk in fractures. This has been especially noted in OMSI with diameters of less than 1.3 mm^{209 210}.

Miyawaki et al¹⁸⁷ reveals that implants of less than 1 mm in diameter are the least reliable. They reported that 1 year success rate of implants with a 1.5 and 2.3 mm diameter was significantly higher than that of implants with diameters of 1 mm. In addition, it was found that patients with a high mandibular plane angle displayed a significantly worse success rate than those with an average or low angle. This has been attributed to the thinner cortical bone in molar region. Consequently, they have suggested that other features to maximise primary stability should be employed when placing OMSI in patients with vertical facial growth.

Berens et al²¹¹ also found similarly low success rates with narrow diameter OMSIs, as did Carano et al⁹⁹. Interestingly, Ohmae et al²¹² illustrated that OSMIs of 1 mm in diameter and 4 mm in length placed in the mandibular third premolar region of beagle dogs were able to sustain an intrusive force of 1.5 N for 12 to 18 weeks. This differing finding has been echoed by Park²¹³ who reported implants with a diameter of 2.0 mm had the lowest success rate when compared with their smaller diameter counterparts. Kuroda et al⁹⁸ further confirmed that small diameter implants had a higher success rate than larger ones.

Although controversy currently exists as to which is the best diameter for OMSIs, two separate, recent systematic reviews of the literature suggest that the ideal OMSI diameter should be between 1.3 – 2.3 mm^{121 177}. It should also be noted that one such review concluded that implants with a diameter of 2 mm cannot be considered safe for placement in the posterior inter-radicular spaces of the maxilla, except between the first molar and the second premolar on the palatal side, and between the canine and the first premolar²¹⁴. Most commercially available OMSIs are available in a minimum diameter of 1.5 mm

1.4.10 Head design

Although their inception was originally inspired through conventional bone screws, OMSIs differ from conventional bone screws because of a dual head i.e. the head has an additional feature designed for orthodontic treatment. The most frequent is the button like design with a sphere or a double sphere-like shape or a hexagonal shape. This design commonly has a hole through the head or the neck of the screw, usually 0.8 mm in diameter, and is commonly used for direct anchorage. A bracket-like design is also available, which can be used for either direct or indirect anchorage. Another permutation of the head design comes from the TOMAS mini-screw implant which offers a hook design.

The head of the OMSI is exposed to the oral cavity, and is connected to the underlying threaded portion of the screw via a transmucosal collar or neck. The transmucosal collar can vary in length depending on the requirements of the operator. It should be noted that most OMSIs feature a similar surface on the head, transmucosal collar, and thread.



Figure 1.8 : Some of the various head designs available with OSMI systems.

Source : [www. Jeilmed.co.kr](http://www.Jeilmed.co.kr)

1.4.11 Diagnostic imaging for OMSIs

Diagnosis and treatment planning remains one of the corner stones for sound orthodontic treatment. With the advent of implantology in the field of orthodontics, there is a need for diagnostic imaging not conventionally sought. Perhaps the greatest risk posed by OMSIs is the safe placement of these devices without irreversible damage to vital structures^{215 216 217}.

Orthopantomograms, cephalometrics and even intraoral radiography have served clinicians well historically²¹⁸. However, with the development of technology, one may realize that such conventional methods do not often accurately depict the anatomical relationship of structures, as they only provide two-dimensional views. Consequently, without the full picture, clinicians are working unaware of any limitations or dangers in the field, especially with surgical procedures. Furthermore, as radiographic artifact and magnification may be introduced, their results of these radiographic methods must be interpreted with caution^{219 220}.

When placing OMSIs, the limited dimensions of these devices allow them to be placed between adjacent tooth apices. Consequently, the level of accuracy and precision in determining the unseen anatomy of these regions is crucial if one is to avoid damage during OMSI placement.

In addition, since factors such as cortical bone thicknesses have been implicated in success²²¹ and thus locating a suitable site for OMSI placement, clinicians are searching for more data in their diagnostic imaging. This calls for more advanced technology.

Whilst computed tomography (CT), can provide accurate measurements of small areas in bone^{222,223 224 225}, traditional CT imaging is expensive, and has a concerning relative radiation dose. The advent of cone beam CT (CBCT) works on a similar concept of CT imaging, and maintains good image resolution and accuracy^{226 227 228} with decreased patient exposure and expense²²⁹.

Interestingly, the work of Motoyoshi¹⁹¹ has shown that knowledge of the thicknesses of cortical bone throughout the jaws is directly linked to the success of mini-implants.

In addition, if using their protocol, Liu et al²³⁰ have shown that as well as helping to localize OSMI, CBCT can also be used to manufacture surgical guides which can accurately guide the safe placement of OMSI. This has been a finding echoed by others in the literature^{231 232}.

Interestingly, in a recent article, Jung and Wehrbein's ²³³ work showed that out of 101 patients, when placing palatal TADs, CT or CBCT analysis showed that 98% had sufficient osseous volume to accommodate such a fixture. They pose the question that: Is volumetric analysis necessary in such cases? The aforementioned author's recommend that initial screening be completed via standard orthodontic radiographs such as a lateral cephalograms, and CBCT be reserved for rare exceptional cases.

1.5 Clinical factors regarding OMSI

Specific recommended procedures for inserting orthodontic mini-screw implants are often available in the product documentation. However, some basic guidelines follow:

1. Informed consent must be given prior the patient to proceed with treatment.
2. Adequate volumetric analysis, and or conventional radiographic analysis must be completed to ensure good planning protocol.
3. A small amount of local anaesthesia is suggested and it is advocated not to achieve profound anaesthesia of the teeth but only of the soft tissue²⁰⁴. This allows detection of any root proximity errors by a nociceptive alert.

4. If the system is not a self-tapping mini-screw, drilling a pilot hole is necessary. Pilot drilling should be done in a surgical environment, and if necessary, by an oral surgeon. Firstly, soft tissue from the site of the placement is either incised or removed using a soft tissue punch. Thereafter, a pilot hole is drilled using a drill rotating no more than 1000 rpm. The pilot drill is usually 0.2 to 0.3 mm thinner than the mini-screw implant⁵³. The mini-screw implant is then screwed in place by using an appropriate screwdriver.
5. In case of self-drilling mini-screw implants, no incision or soft tissue removal is necessary. Infection control is similar to that for an extraction. After selecting the appropriate site, the mini-screw implant, and the corresponding site of placement, it is inserted in place. This may be either with a hand driver or rotary placement.

Surgery-related factors affecting the success of OMSI placement include; experience of the surgeon, sterilization, flap or flapless surgery, self-tapping or self-drilling technique, pilot hole preparation in the cortex only or for the entire screw depth, diameter of the pilot hole, cooling technique, drill speed and pressure, direction of placement, steady or wiggling placement procedures, monocortical vs bicortical anchorage, and placement torque.

Excessive surgical trauma and thermal injury can lead to osteonecrosis and fibrous encapsulation of the implant^{234 235}. Interestingly, it has been suggested that failure rates can probably be reduced with increasing clinical experience¹⁷⁶. This is particularly relevant in the field of orthodontics where operators may not have had exposure to surgical procedures for protracted period of time.

Angle of implant insertion was another factor that has been found to affect implant stability. Lim et al, Kyung et al, Carano et al. and Wilmes^{236 237} have all found that proposing a degree of angulation during insertion increases implant to bone contact, and thus primary stability. Wilmes^{236 237} has advised this angle to be around 60° to 70°. However, whilst primary stability is increased, care must also be taken to avoid severe angulation.

Wilmes^{236 237} also advised against routine angulation of OSMI as there is a risk of slippage of the mini-implant at its first contact with bone. In addition, obliquely inserted mini-implants may expose a greater lever arm if forces are applied with the risk of higher failure rates¹⁸⁶.

Thus whilst angulation of OMSIs may be useful in areas of poor bone quality such as the maxilla, care should be taken to adopt such techniques routinely in the mandible. Note that another reason to consider angulation of OMSIs may be in areas where the apical anatomy needs to be manoeuvred.

Furthermore, it has been proposed that the soft tissues also play a significant role in success or failure for OMSI ²³⁸. As with conventional dental implantology, surgical placement in a non-keratinised site compromises the peri-implant interface by reducing the defences to bacterial ingress and potentiating an inflammatory response eventually leading to osseous destruction and the loss of the implant.

A similar notion applies to OMSI with surgical placement in keratinized gingiva thought to reduce the development of hypertrophic tissues and inflammation ²³⁹. A relationship between success and the character of the soft tissues has been proposed as evidenced by the literature ^{210 198}.

1.5.1 Loading and anchorage considerations

Despite the early designs of skeletal anchorage focussing on a sufficient osseointegration period, part of the popularization of OMSI is that they may be loaded immediately. It must be noted however that only light forces are recommended early on.

The work of Miyawaki et al. Has shown that force can be applied straight away to orthodontic mini-screw implants if the force is under 2N^{187 240}. Interestingly, even with light force, Zhao²⁴¹ et al did not recommend immediate loading, rather a delayed 3 week period preferring some consolidation prior loading to ensure better success. A similar notion has been echoed in the literature with a delayed loading protocol avoiding the initial 3-4 week decrease in OMSI stability^{242 243}.

However, in their systematic review, Chen et al.¹⁷⁷ showed that most mini implants can withstand 100 to 200 g of horizontal early or immediate loading successfully; that is enough to sustain the various orthodontic tooth movements.

Another factor that needs to be considered is whether or not OMSI actually provide true absolute anchorage. Liou et al.¹²⁴ found that mini-screw implants might move according to orthodontic loading in some patients, and it is therefore advised to allow some manner of safety clearance to prevent proximity error to apices²⁴⁴. This can lead also lead to anchorage loss. Thus if a clinician is to utilize OMSI in their armamentarium, one must be vigilant about maintaining good success rates and minimising failure²⁴⁵.

1.5.2 Clinical factors for OMSI survival

Selecting an adequate implant site is a crucial factor in the overall success. Numerous factors have been identified in determining an adequate site for implantation.

Although most of the TADs as described are only required as temporary anchorage, implying their eventual removal, it is vital to consider that good healing, and healthy tissues are a prerequisite to success with this treatment modality. Consequently all of the general health requirements that apply to conventional dental implant treatment planning pertain to orthodontic mini-screw implants, and similar systems. These include;

- Age
- Smoking status^{246 247 248}
- Diabetes and Immune status^{249 200 250}
- Bone quality and site selection.

It should be noted that all of the absolute contraindications for OSMI treatment pertain to systemic and localised bone health. These include history of bisphosphonate therapy, hypersensitivity, titanium allergies, metabolic bone disorders, bone pathologies, poor bone healing, cardiovascular disease, psychosomatic disease, uncontrolled periodontitis, undergoing radiation therapy, or localized active infection.

Local risk factors

Obviously, prior to perforating the cortical bone in any region of the oral cavity, appreciation needs to be made for the local anatomy. Areas where damage to adjacent structures such as roots, veins, arteries, nerves, the maxillary sinus and the nasal cavity should be avoided. Prior to surgical intervention, adequate volumetric analysis may help in avoiding unwanted anatomical relationships. Anatomical locations that have been suggested for the placement of OMSIs include ²⁵¹;

The treatment objective perhaps is the most important with consideration needing to be made in why the OMSI is being placed, how long it will remain in situ and the biomechanics it will underpin. The biomechanics are advised to be simple, with consideration given to future tooth movement to avoid any interference with the implant. The implant site should also provide sufficient attached gingiva to prevent patient discomfort, tissue overgrowth, and micro jiggling that can lead to long-term implant failure ¹⁷⁷.

Sufficient inter-radicular distance should also be allowed to ensure that no damage is inflicted to adjacent tooth roots ^{214 252}. Although the contemporary literature tells us that it is difficult to completely perforate an apex with a self-drilling screw ²¹⁵.

In the event of more likely superficial damage to an apex, some studies have shown despite minor injury there is good propensity for repair ^{215 217 253}. However, root proximity has been associated with increased implant failure ²¹⁶.

Often, the ideal implant site may be obstructed by root proximity. Consequently, roots may need to be up righted and aligned to facilitate successful implant placement.

Alsamak et. al ²⁵⁴. in their systematic review concluded that most favourable areas for OMSI insertion in the maxilla are proposed between the first and second molars buccally and palatally. The best area in the mandible is also between the first and second molars, both buccally and lingually. In the palate, the paramedian area 3 to 6 mm posterior to and 2 to 9 mm lateral to the incisive foramen was identified as the best site for OMSI.

Considering all of these factors, recently there has been a trend moving away from placement in inter-radicular areas. Instead, palatal placement of orthodontic mini screws attached to some type of hybrid prosthesis have become popular as they allow less anatomical risk, and increased versatility. In addition, due to placement in more favourable mucosa, anecdotal evidence suggests reduced failure, and complications. This type of placement has been suggested by Cope ²⁵⁵, Baumgaertel ²⁵⁶ and Wilmes ²⁵⁷.

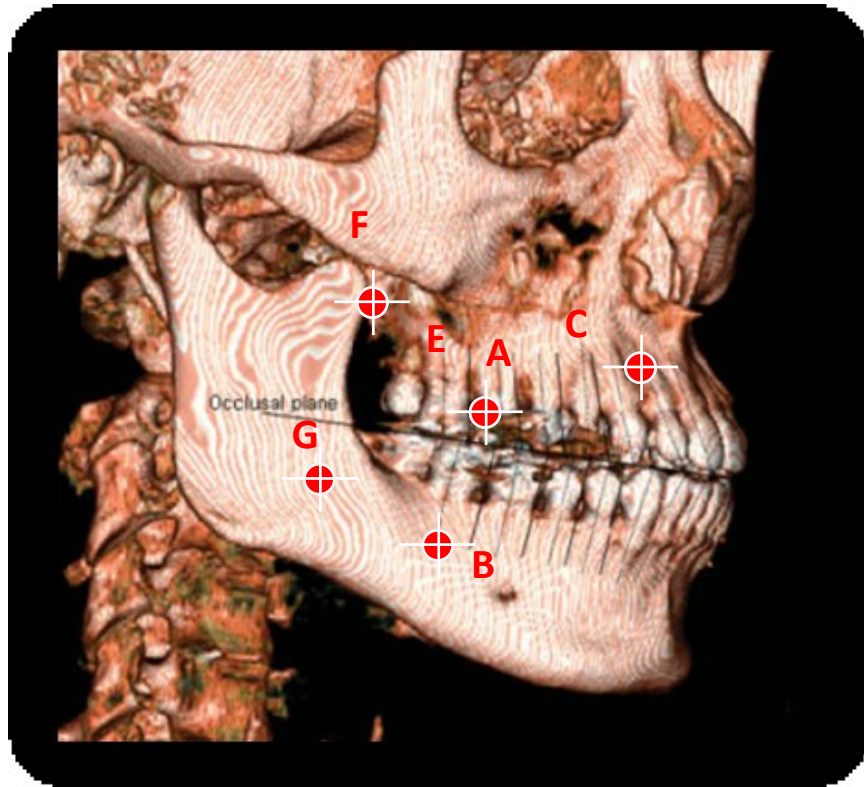


Figure 1.9 : Potential sites for placement of OMSI

A - Maxillary alveolar bone, B - Mandibular alveolar bone,
C - Palatal bone, D - Infra-zygomatic crest, E - Maxillary tuberosity,
F - Inferior ridge of priform aperture, G - Retro-molar region.

1.5.3 Complications of OMSI

All practitioners are obliged to fulfil the Hippocratic notion of “do no harm”. Recognition of these principles requires the appreciation that with any treatment risks and benefits exist. There are a number of complications that may be associated with orthodontic mini screw implants²⁵⁸.

Perhaps the most common complication is failure of the device. It has been reported that currently, approximately 10-30% of orthodontic mini-implants fail

^{211 259 200 176 187 260 94}.

Although failure may be due to a host of reasons, one of the identified factors may be peri implantitis. Peri implantitis remains a pertinent factor for the failure of osseointegrated endosteal dental implants^{261 262 263}. The literature relating to peri implantitis of OMSI is relatively low^{264 265}.

Some manufacturers offer mini-implants of significantly larger diameter that can be placed immediately in the site of a failed implant. However, extreme caution must be used to prevent damage of the adjacent roots^{266 267}. A healing time of 2 to 3 months before placing a new implant of the same diameter in the same location is recommended to allow for the bone to fill in.

Perhaps the most morbid outcome of OMSI failure may be aspiration if the implant becomes completely dislodged from the appliance. This may lead to pneumonia, and or surgical intervention to remove the foreign body. However, it should be noted that such complication can occur with any similar orthodontic appliance such as a bracket or other elements of the dental armamentarium.

Interestingly, there has been one such report of alveolar bone exostoses subsequent to OMSI placement ²⁶⁸. Whilst this may not be significant or representative of the overall sequelae in relation to OMSI placement, further investigation is needed in such potential outcomes.

Some authors have explored the notion of subsequent bacteraemia after placement, and or removal of OMSI where microbes originating in the oral environment may become systemically involved ²⁶⁹. Although the mentioned study did not detect any evidence of bacteria subsequent to OMSI placement systemically, further work is required to investigate this idea in more detail.

Whilst care needs to be taken during the planning process, damage to adjacent structures can occur even though orthodontic mini-implants and pilot drills are specifically designed to not cut into roots.

Therefore, damage of the root proper is rare, but it is possible to damage the structures of the periodontal ligament. The minimal space requirement between roots is 0.5 mm mesial and distal to the implant, or 1 mm more than the implant diameter.

Whilst other structures such as the neurovascular bundle and maxillary sinuses are also at risk, their involvement in OMSI treatment is often uneventful.

As with many aspects of cutting edge technology, perhaps cost may be an implication for patients as protocol is still evolving on how and where such clinical procedures fit into the array of tools that we offer

1.5.4 Current success and failure rates

As discussed, despite the many advantages that they present, the clinical behaviour of orthodontic mini-screw implants is still unclear and unpredictable. Although variable, the current, failure rates of OMSI has been described in the literature as between 10%-30%^{211 259 200 176 187 260 94}. Such data suggests that this is still not satisfactory. As discussed prior, retention of OMSI is reliant on various influencing factors. These may be;

- Implant type, the implant dimensions^{110 177}
- Implant surface characteristics
- Insertion angle²³⁶
- Pilot drilling hole size^{270 175}
- Insertion torque^{179 178}
- Force magnitude^{200 186 260}
- Anatomic location²⁶⁰
- Primary stability of the implant^{271 179}
- General health status of the patient.
- Soft tissue characteristics²⁰⁰
- Inflammation of the peri-implant area (Peri implantitis)^{9 272}
- Possible root proximity²¹⁵⁻²¹⁷

In addition to these factors, general surgical principles need to be applied to maximise clinical success.

Despite the research that has already been done in this field, further work is needed as an ideal method for achieving stable implants in the initial integration stage has not yet been developed. Further investigation is needed and studies seem not to have drawn specific conclusions yet. Melsen states that; “Their success rate is depended on the system used, the operator (technique and experience), and the patient (multiple factors).”

Patient related factors	Implant related factors	Management related factors
-Age -Sex -Type of malocclusion -Thickness and kind of mucosa -Features of the bone -Thickness of the cortical bone -Location in relation to roots -Soft tissue inflammation -Hygienic care -Smoking habit	-Type of TAD -Length of TAD -Diameter of TAD	-Time of loading -Type of movement -Clinician

Table 1.5 : Summary of factors associated with TAD failure or success.
Source: Adapted from Dalessandri et al 2014²⁷²

1.6 Biofilm formation on dental implants

Exposure of an osseointegrated implant in the oral cavity inevitably leads to biofilm formation. The first stage is for an acquired pellicle to develop on the implant surface through selective adsorption of the environmental macromolecules such as alpha-amylase and serum albumin ²⁷³. This pellicle is derived from components in the saliva, as well as bacterial and host tissue products. It acts as a substrate for bacterial colonization, which occurs as early as 30 minutes after implant exposure in the oral cavity ²⁷⁴.

Biofilm represents an organized structure in which microorganisms interact metabolically as a community ²⁷⁵. Biofilm formation around implants occurs in a similar way as teeth. After formation of the acquired pellicle, bacterial attachment with initial colonizers followed by cell-to-cell adhesion with secondary colonizers occurs on the implant surface ²⁷⁶.

Biofilms are the preferred method of growth for most bacteria because they facilitate exchange of nutrients and protect the bacterial community from competing microorganisms ²⁷⁷.

Whilst biofilms are often associated with negative implications, it should be noted that they occur naturally in our environment and it is only when the balance of virulence factors imbalances others that pathology results.

Similar to the healthy periodontium around natural teeth, the microorganisms associated with healthy implants are predominantly Gram-positive cocci and rods microorganisms^{274 278 279}. The dominant species are members of the yellow and purple complexes or are independent of the complexes such as *Actinomyces naeslundii* or *Actinomyces viscosus*^{280 281}. Gram-negative bacteria can be found in smaller proportions and include *Prevotella intermedia*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Tannerella forsythia*, *Prevotella nigrescens*, and *Campylobacter rectus*²⁸⁰.

This suggests that certain species are indigenous, host-compatible organisms. As demonstrated in an experimentally induced peri-implant mucositis study in humans, plaque accumulation and development of peri-implant mucositis were comparable at implant and natural teeth sites²⁸². Interestingly, with a similar amount of plaque accumulation, implant sites had increased host response and proinflammatory cytokine production compared with that found in teeth, suggesting that implants may act as a foreign body²⁸³.

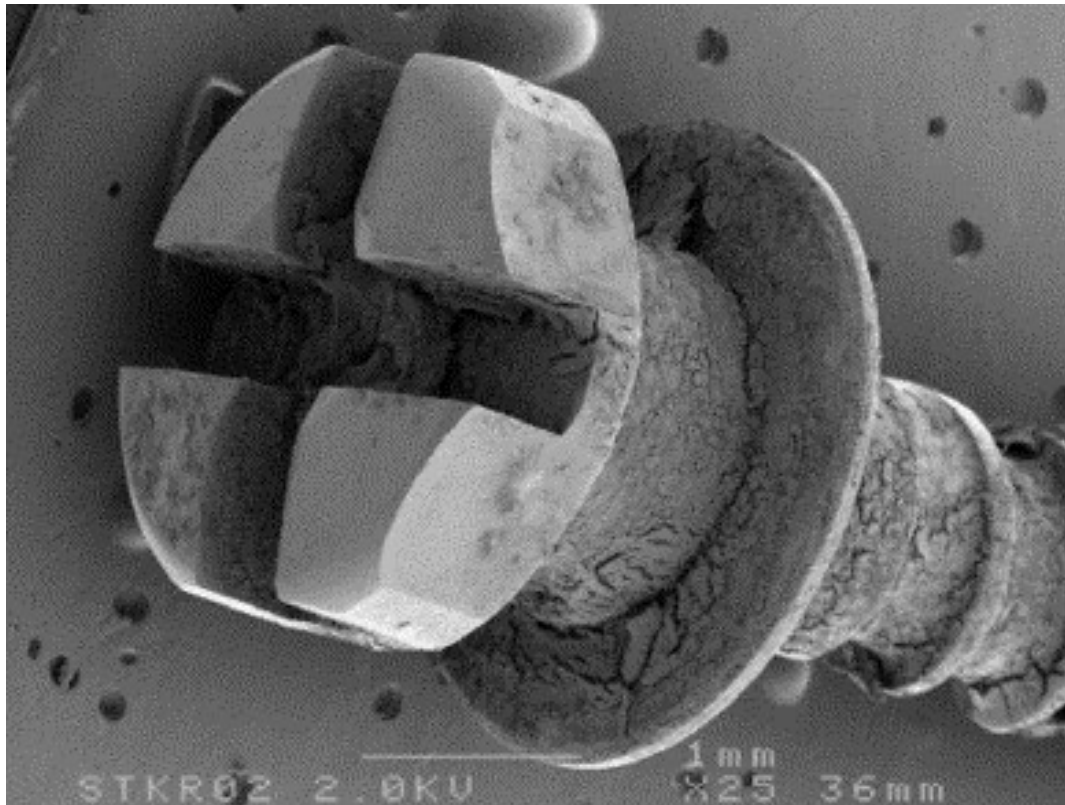


Figure 1.10 : Scanning electron micrograph of a clinically failed OMSI (Ti6Al4V). There is a thick biofilm present covering all aspects of the OMSI.

Source : Chin²⁸⁴

1.7 Surface roughness and the effect of biofilm formation

There has been much work completed regarding the relationship between successful osseointegration dental implants and increased surface roughness. The literature informs us that indeed, increased surface roughness is correlated with increased osseointegration^{285 286 287}.

However, it has also been suggested that, a higher surface roughness (Ra value > 0.2) increases biofilm formation^{288 289}. This may lead to the accelerated progression of peri implant disease^{290 291 292}.

In their experimental study with dogs, Berglundh et al.²⁹² revealed that rougher surfaces when compared with polished machined surface implants resulted in increased plaque formation and faster progression of peri-implantitis.

These finding were echoed by Amarante et al.²⁹³ who illustrated that machined surface implants harboured significantly less bacteria than plasma-sprayed implants.

The abutment surface roughness of dental implants is also thought to affect the aggregation of biofilm. With increasing abutment surface roughness, higher supra mucosal plaque accumulation has been noted ²⁹⁴.

Quirynen et al. ²⁹⁵ in their examination of 9 patients found that abutments with a rough surface harboured up to 25 times more microorganisms than was found in the supra mucosal plaque of rough abutments compared with smooth abutments ²⁹⁵.

Much of the available literature pertains to peri implantitis and the infection of conventional dental implants. There is limited clinical information regarding the infection of OMSIs in the current literature.



Figure 1.11 : Diagrammatic representation of biofilm formation. 1 - Attachment, 2 –Micro colonisation. 3 – The development of an extracellular matrix. 4, 5 – Maturation and dispersion of the biofilm.

Source : Chin²⁸⁴

1.8 Antimicrobial agents on orthodontic biofilms

Orthodontic appliances reduce the ability of patients to maintain oral hygiene effectively. The introduction of OMSI is no different with the removal of biofilm from *in situ* OMSI made difficult. Whilst aggressive mechanical debridement may jeopardize the retention of the OMSI, many clinicians suggest the use anti-microbial containing mouth rinses to prevent postoperative peri-implantitis^{9 200}.

These agents generally have 4 broad mechanisms of disrupting dental biofilm formation²⁹⁶;

- (1) Prevention of the adherence and build-up of a biofilm.
- (2) Destruction of an existing biofilm.
- (3) Reducing the growth processes in the biofilm.
- (4) Destruction of individual microorganisms in the biofilm.

Chlorhexidine is regarded as the most representative of the chemoprophylactic agents, and is widely considered to be the most effective agent against plaque and gingivitis^{297 298}. It is extensively studied, and one of the most frequently utilised bactericides in dentistry^{299 298}.

Chlorhexidine is a bisbiguanide antiseptic and acts by binding to the bacterial cell membrane and causing rupture by interference to osmosis³⁰⁰. As well as this, Chlorhexidine has shown some ability to help inhibit adherence of microorganisms to a surface thereby preventing growth and development of biofilms³⁰¹. Chlorhexidine has also been shown to prove effective against fungi, bacterial spores, and protozoa³⁰⁰. The excellent substantivity of chlorhexidine is one of its main advantages in providing continuous antimicrobial action³⁰².

Contrastingly, fluoride is universally accepted as a highly effective anti-caries agent. This anti-caries action is delivered directly to the dental hard tissues through the process of acid mediated demineralization and remineralization³⁰³³⁰⁴. However, it is also accepted that fluoride has a direct bacteriostatic effect thereby leading to a two pronged approach³⁰³. The literature reflects that fluoride may affect bacterial metabolism through a set of actions with fundamentally different mechanisms. It can act directly as an enzyme inhibitor, for example for the glycolytic enzyme enolase, which is inhibited in a quasi-irreversible manner^{302 305}.

Direct action seems also to occur in inhibition of heme-based peroxidases with binding of fluoride to heme. The flavin-based peroxidases of many oral bacteria are insensitive to fluoride.

Furthermore, another mode of action involves formation of metal–fluoride complexes. Moreover, several metal-fluoride complexes can be formed on titanium implant surfaces such as CuF_2 , SnF_2 , Al_2F_3 , and TiF_4 . These complexes are responsible for fluoride inhibition of proton-translocating F-ATPases and are thought to act by mimicking phosphate to form complexes with ADP at reaction centres of the enzymes³⁰⁶. This exhibits direct antimicrobial effects against oral bacteria.

Chapter 2

Significance and aims of study

2.1 Significance

Whilst many factors have been implicated in the grossly variable stability of OMSI, biological interaction between the metal body and organic bone is pivotal. Various processes exist for the manufacture of OMSI with surface treatment of the implant varying from manufacturer to manufacturer.

Anodic oxidized implants are one such group which have perceived greater surface roughness than machined un-treated implant surfaces ³⁰⁷. Because osteoblasts more easily attach to a rough surface than a smooth surface ^{308 309}, this may make such a surface coating advantageous for OMSI. However, treating the entire screw with such a coating also makes the head and neck of the screw equally conducive to biofilm aggregation – a factor shown to affect the stability and success of OMSI ⁹.

In addition, the phenomenon of peri implantitis is well documented in the literature with respect to conventional dental implants ^{310 311 263}. In the case of restorative dental implants, care is taken to ensure that any attempt to roughen the surface of the implant does not extend onto the trans - mucosal collar as this will accelerate peri implantitis.

Contrastingly, OMSI are available in a myriad of materials and surface treatments. Anodic oxidized titanium alloy OMSIs are one example of various materials and finishes available in the current market. Others include stainless steel, machined titanium alloy, and commercially pure titanium.

Whilst there has been much work performed on surface roughness of conventional dental implants, and its correlation with bone healing³¹² to date, the investigation into the various surface characteristics of various OMSI systems has been limited. To the author's knowledge, there has been limited recent work conducted exploring the surface roughness of commercially available OMSI systems and its effect on biofilm formation^{284 313}.

2.2 Aims

This study aimed to compare the surface roughness of four commercially available orthodontic miniscrew implants and their effect on biofilm formation in an *in vitro* setting. The null hypotheses state that:

- There will be no significant difference in surface morphology among implant groups.
- There will be no significant difference in the growth of biofilm among implant groups.
- There will be no significant difference in the killing efficacy of antimicrobial agents.

Chapter 3

Materials and method

3.1 Materials

Four commercially available, self-tapping orthodontic mini implants that are commonly available in the Australian market were selected for the present study. The details are provided in the table below.

Table 3.1 : Summary of implant groups used for this experiment.

Product	Material	Surface	Length (mm)	Diameter (mm)	Production lot	Manufacturer
<u>Aarhus</u>	Ti6Al4V	Anodised	9.2	1.5	095/8/20011	American Orthodontics
<u>Vector TAS</u>	Ti6Al4V	Anodised	10.0	2.0	072213	Ormco
<u>Leone</u>	Surgical stainless steel (ISO 5832/1)	Machined	10.0	2.0	000-1510-02	Leone
<u>TOMAS®</u>	Ti6Al4V	Machined	10.0	2.0	431873	Dentaurum

All micro-implants were individually packaged and sterilized by the manufacturers. Thus by opening the packages only at the start of each experiment, and using careful handling, contamination of the OMSI surface was prevented. The exception was the Leone stainless steel implants which required sterilization prior to use. They were handled in a similar manner as described after sterilization in a Class B Steam Autoclave.

3.2 Surface roughness

The surface roughness of each group of OMSI was measured by atomic force microscopy (AFM). AFM utilizes a high-resolution, scanning microscope capable of imaging and measuring samples on the nanometer to angstrom scale. A fine probe on a cantilever is used to scan the surface of a specimen. Forces generated as the tip of the probe interacts with the surface are recorded as deflections of the cantilever.

Four implants were selected from each group, with each implant subject to analysis using an INTEGRA Modular AFM (NT-MDT, Moscow, Russia) available at the Advanced Analytical Centre of James Cook University, Townsville.

Measurements were taken at the head and neck of the implant, and repeated 4 times on each OMSI. Data was output both in graphical and numerical format with S_a representing the average distance of the roughness profile to the centre plane of the profile. There were 16 measurements per implant group.

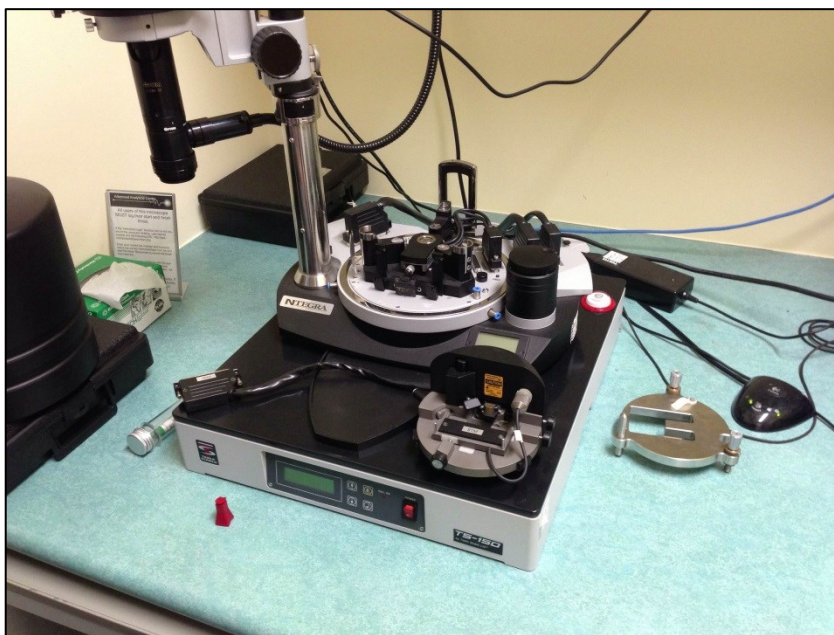


Figure 3.1 : The INTEGRA Modular Atomic Force Microscopy Unit (NT-MDT, Moscow, Russia). A unit was available in the James Cook University Advanced Analytical Centre, Townsville

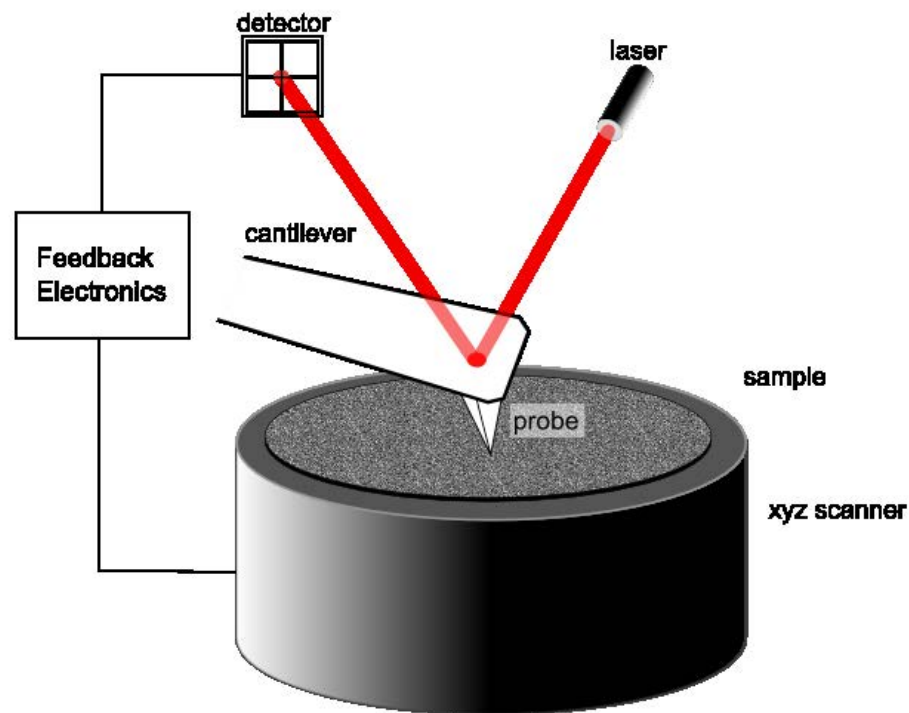


Figure 3.2 : Schematic diagram of how an AFM works.

Atomic force microscopy (AFM) utilizes a high-resolution, scanning microscope capable of imaging and measuring samples on the nanometer to angstrom scale. A fine probe on a cantilever is used to scan the surface of a specimen. Forces generated as the tip of the probe interacts with the surface are recorded as deflections on the cantilever.

Source: Adapted from www.wikipedia.org

3.3 Surface morphology

In addition, surface characteristics of each OMSI group were investigated qualitatively using scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

One OMSI from each group was selected to be imaged. There were a total of four OMSI used for this experiment, one from each group. Each OMSI was fixed onto a SEM stub holder and sputter coated prior to analysis. Images at set magnifications were taken by using a Jeol JSM5410LV (Peabody, Massachusetts, USA) available at the Advanced Analytical Center of James Cook University.

This was a tungsten gun SEM with secondary electron imaging (SEI), backscatter electron imaging (BEI) and a cathodoluminescence detector (CL). Images were compared for qualitative analysis.

3.4 Biofilm growth on implant surfaces

To grow biofilms on OMSIs, human saliva was collected from 10 male and 10 female volunteers. Saliva secretion was stimulated by chewing orthodontic elastics (Ormco). They were collectively pooled and stored in ice chilled test tubes (50mL). All saliva collection was completed within 24 hours of the experiments being conducted with a total of 20 donated samples.

To prevent protein break down, phenylmethylsulfonylfluoride (PMSF) (Sigma Aldrich) was added to collected saliva to make a final concentration of 1.0 mM.

Saliva collection was conducted with the approval of the ethics committee of James Cook University (Approval number: H5309, Refer Appendix A). All volunteers were issued an information sheet regarding the saliva collection procedure (Appendix B), prior to signing a consent form (Appendix C).

One OMSI from each group were selected and prepared as discussed by sterilization in a Lisa 500 (WH, Bürmoos, Austria) at 134°C (206 kPa) for 45 minutes. Each OMSI was immersed in 1.0 mL of freshly pooled saliva in individual Eppendorf tubes.

The biofilm was grown by culturing the collective samples in an aerobic incubator M-20AIC (Sanyo, Loughborough , UK). Incubation occurred at 37° C for 24 hours in line with parameters suggested by previous studies^{284 314 315}.

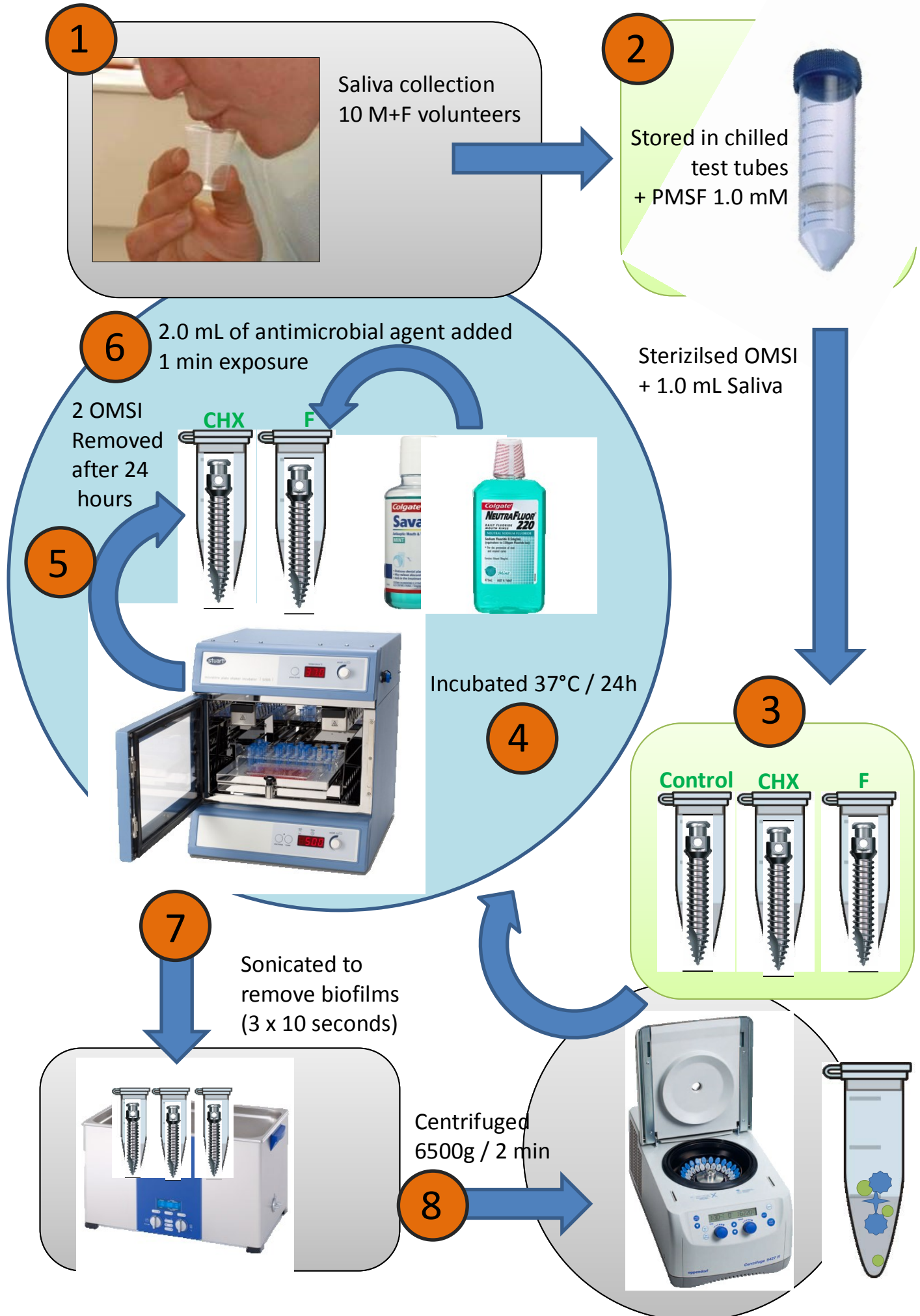
In addition, it was intended to simulate the maximum period of time biofilms may be allowed to grow on such a surface.

After incubation, in order to remove the bacteria off the surfaces, the OMSI with adhering biofilms were merged in 1.0 mL of sterile adhesion buffer (50mM potassium chloride, 2 mM potassium phosphate, 1mM calcium chloride, pH 6.8) and sonicated (Bandeiln SONOREX Super, Sigma Aldrich) for approximately 3 x 10s, with 30s intervals in an ice water bath.

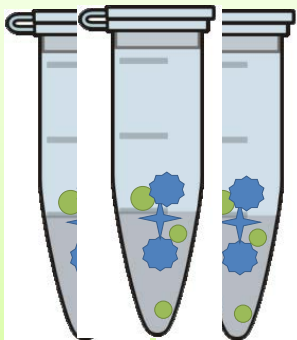
The bacterial pellet was collected after a subsequent centrifuge at 6500g for 2 min at 10°C, which was re-suspended into 50 µL of sterile adhesion buffer.

Furthermore, to test the antimicrobial efficacy of 0.2% chlorhexidine (Colgate, AUSTRALIA) and 0.055% fluoride rinses (250 ppm F, Colgate, AUSTRALIA), two samples of each micro-implant were prepared for this experiment. After 24 hours of incubation, the each implant was immersed in 2 mL either mouth rinse for 1 min, respectively.

Figure 3.3 : Experimental procedure to culture biofilms on the implant surfaces.



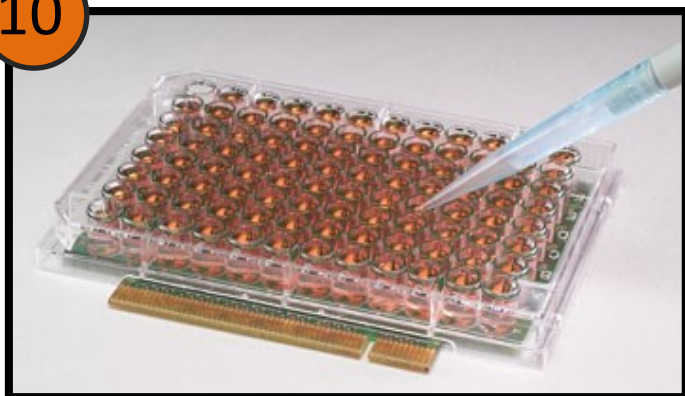
9



Re suspended
Bacteria containing
samples

200 ul of sample

10



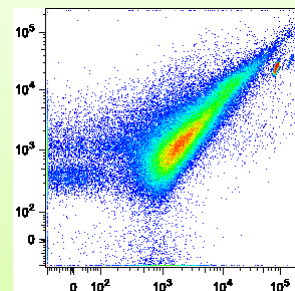
12

Processed in
BD FACS



13

Output data



14

Repeat experiments
7 times



11

Chemical Staining
2uL of Thiazole Orange
2uL of Propodium Iodide
20uL of counting beads

The bacteria from all incubated implants were then quantified using flow cytometry (FCS). Flow cytometry is a laser-based, biophysical technology employed for the purposes of cell counting, cell sorting, biomarker detection and protein engineering. It works by suspending cells in a stream of fluid and passing them by an electronic detection apparatus.

It allows simultaneous multi-parametric analysis of the physical and chemical characteristics of up to thousands of particles per second. This makes flow cytometry both efficient and accurate.

Prior to analysis, 200 μL of bacterial suspension was mixed with 20 μL of immunofluorescent counting beads and 4 μL of a staining medium from the BD Cell Viability Kit in a multi well plate. This included 2 μL of Thiazole orange TO (42 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and 2 μL of Propidium iodide PI (4.3 mmol/L in water).

This mixture in the multi well plate was analyzed by a BD FACSCanto II (San Jose, CA, USA) available in the James Cook University Analytical Flow Cytometry Unit. Data was exported to FlowJo LLC Data software (Oregon, USA) for analysis.

The experiments were repeated seven times with separately pooled saliva as outlined in the collection protocol and new micro-implants.

To calculate the amount of bacteria grown per mm² on each of the implant groups, the area of each OMSI was measured. Where possible, 3D scanning of the screws along with manufacturers data was used to obtain accurate measurements of the total surface area of each OMSI. This allowed direct comparison between the different groups of OMSI. To capture the 3D models, a DOF white light scanner was used (Seoul, Korea) together with PowerShape (Cambridge, England) and Materialise (Leuven, Belgium) 3D software.

One-way ANOVA was completed to compare the means of total bacterial formation on each implant group. Post-hoc analysis included Tukey's correlation.

Furthermore, paired t-tests were conducted between the chlorhexidine and fluoride groups to determine the mean amount of dead bacterial proportion. This provided an insight into killing effectiveness of each of the agents.

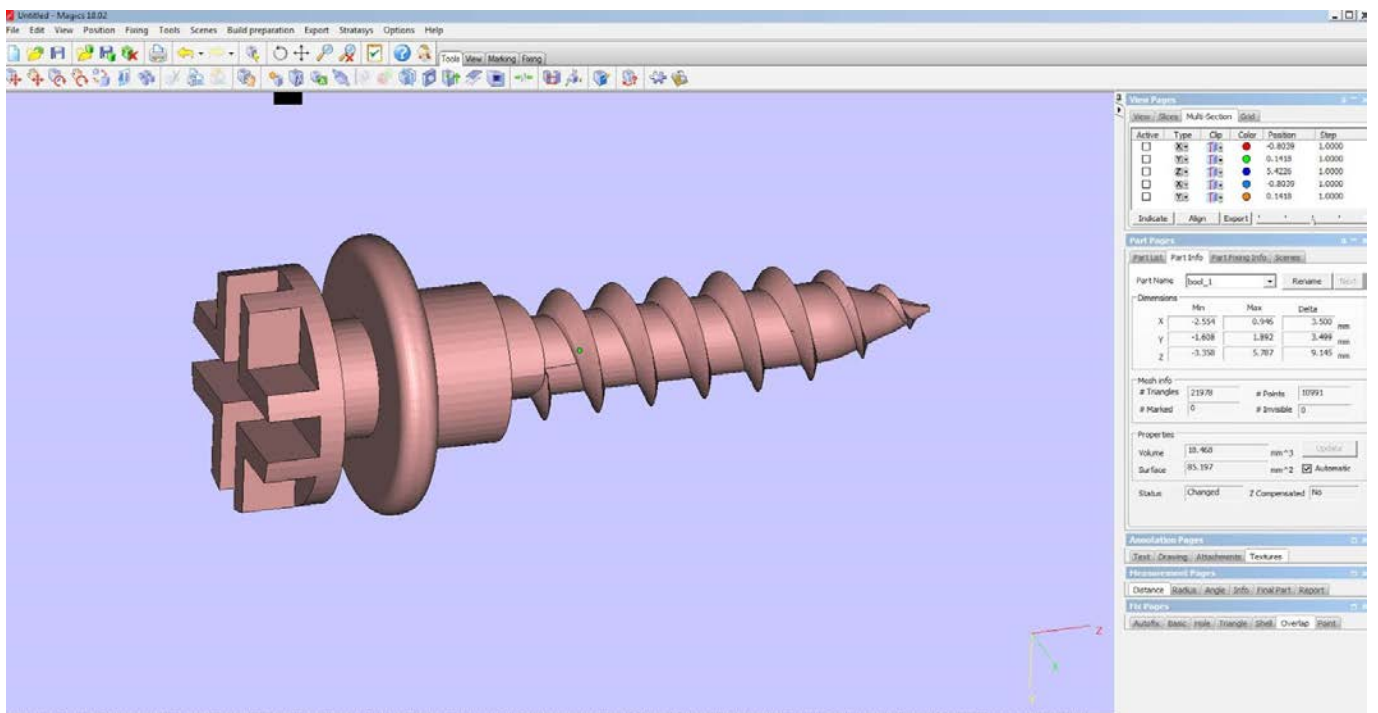
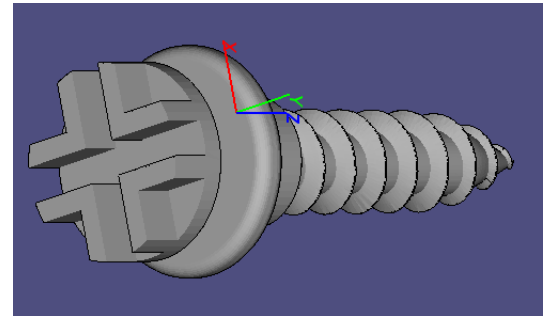
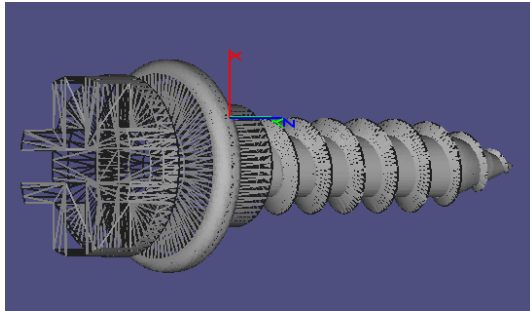


Figure 3.4 : 3D models generated from scanning of the Aarhus OMSI
Total surface area was thus calculated more accurately.

3.5 Statistical analysis

A Shapiro Wilk test was used prior to analysis of variance of means (ANOVA) to evaluate the data sets for normality. Values of skewness and kurtosis were calculated to help identify outlying values which could be removed to ensure similar distributions were being compared.

Multiple analyses were conducted using one-way ANOVA, followed by Tukey's *post hoc* test.

A Student's t-test was used to calculate the difference between Chlorhexidine and Fluoride killing efficacy across groups.

Prism 6 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA USA) was used as the statistical program to run these analyses. $p < 0.05$ was considered significant for all test utilized.

Chapter 4

Results

4.1 Summary of OMSI groups used

Table 4.1 : Summary of the groups of OMSI used

ID	Product	Material	Surface	Length (mm)	Diameter (mm)	Area (mm ²)	Production lot	Manufacturer
1	Aarhus	Ti6Al4V	Anodised	9.2	1.5	85.2	095/8/20011	American Orthodontics
2	Vector	Ti6Al4V	Anodised	10.0	2.0	62.5	072213	Ormco
3	Leone	Stainless steel (ISO 5832/1)	Machined	10.0	2.0	72.0	000-1510-02	Leone
4	TOMAS®	Ti6Al4V	Machined	10.0	2.0	88.16	431873	Dentaurum

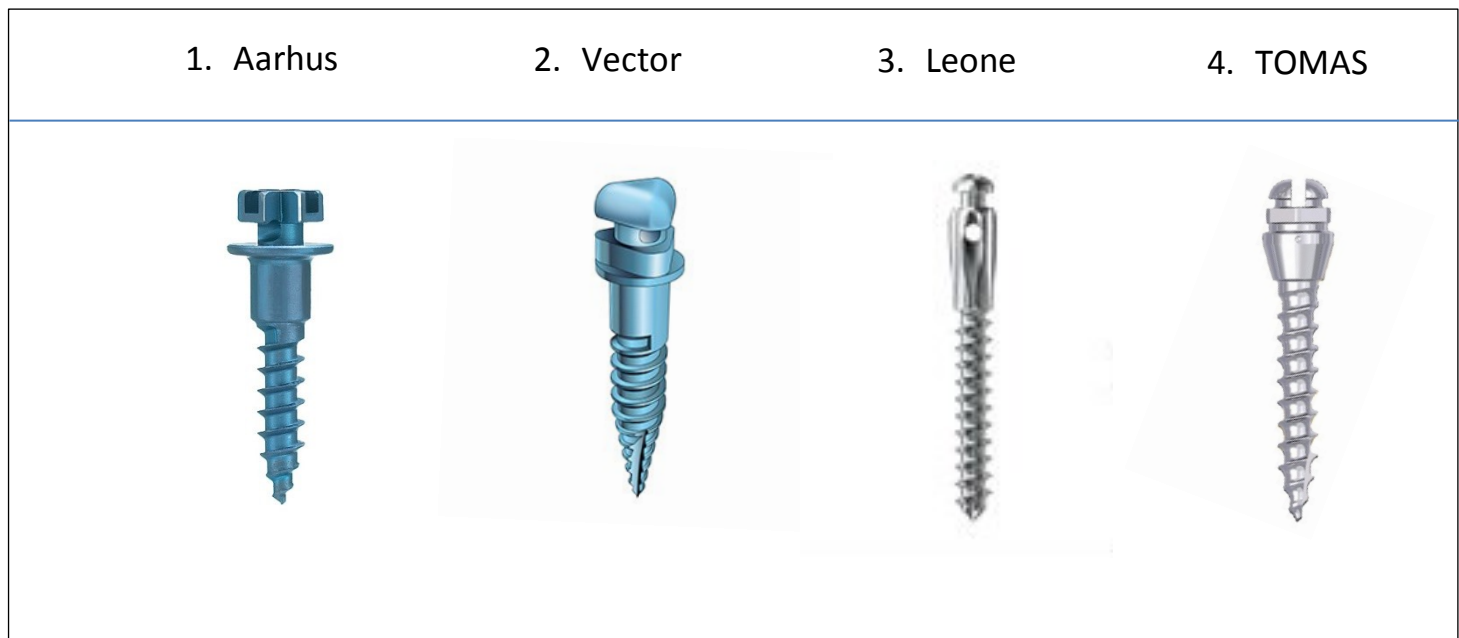


Figure 4.1 : Examples of the OMSI used for the experiment

4.2 SEM qualitative analysis

Morphological analysis under SEM showed that four of the implant groups exhibited varying surface finishes. This reflected their varying composition.

The TOMAS group which was manufactured from machined titanium alloy exhibited imperfections on the surface. There was evidence of divots, and pitting. In addition what appeared to be striations were evident where the metal had been cut.

Leone group which was manufactured from stainless steel also resembled these imperfections. The pitting appeared to be more severe, especially where the smooth metal transitioned into the thread. These imperfections on the OMSI surfaces were attributed to the manufacturing process.

The Vector group which was manufactured from titanium alloy and finished with anodic oxidation exhibited unique surface morphology in that its surface when imaged at the head and neck appeared roughest. There were numerous striations also concluded to be originating from the manufacturing process. This roughened pattern appeared to be consistent throughout the length of the Vector screws with a much denser configuration.

Interestingly, the Aarhus group which is also manufactured from titanium alloy, and finished with surface adonization did not exhibit such characteristics. It appeared smoothest with less gouging of the metal where cut lines appeared. Furthermore, the presence of pitting was virtually absent in the anodized titanium alloy samples analysed.

This qualitative analysis indicates that with respect to the measured OMSI groups, the Vector brand possess the roughest surface characteristics.

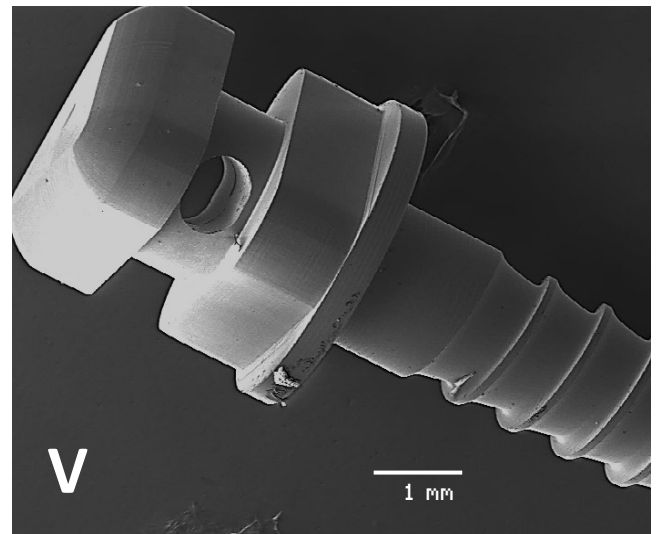
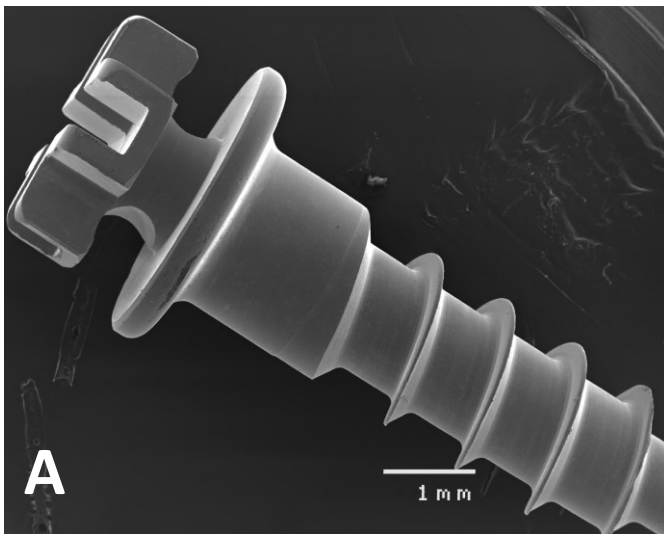
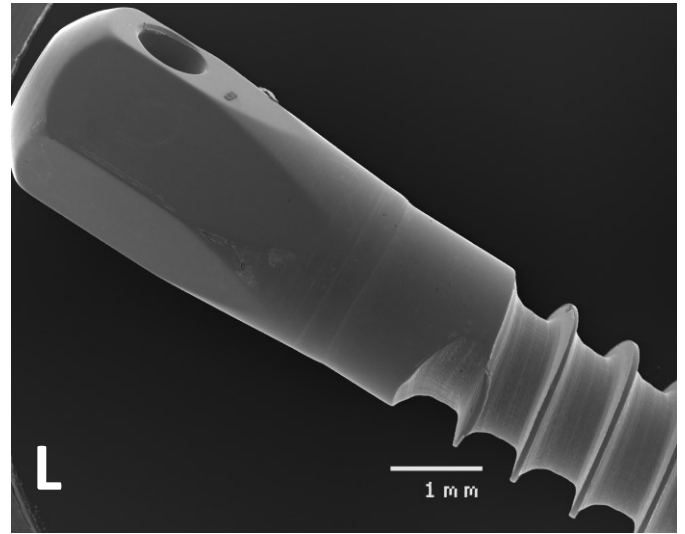
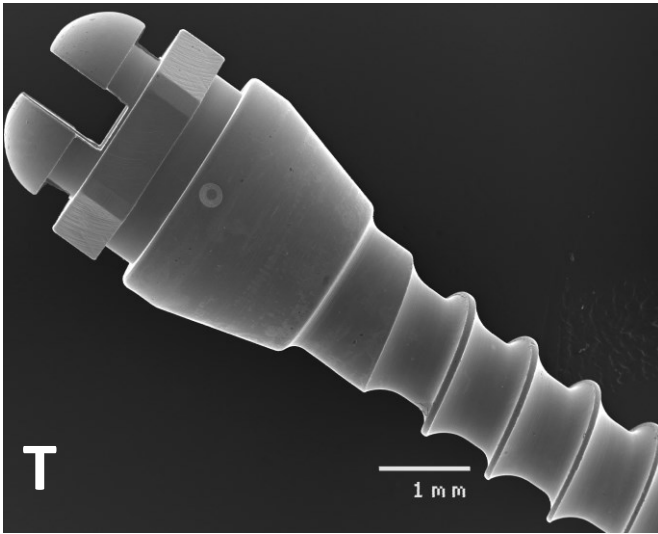


Figure 4.2 : Example of SEM images at various magnifications.

A: Aarhus, L: Leone, V: Vector, T: TOMAS

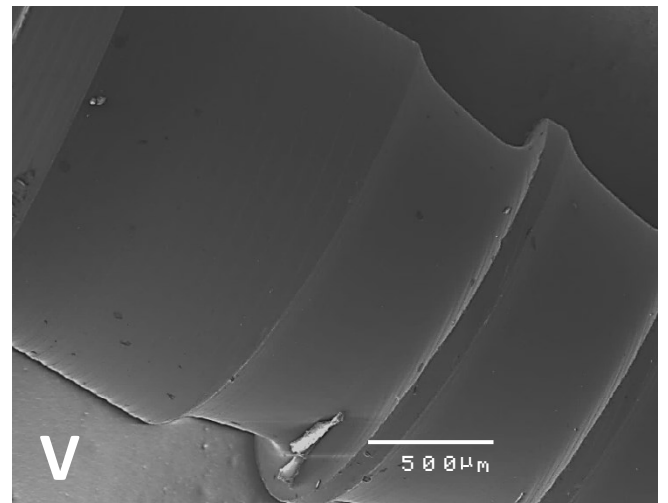
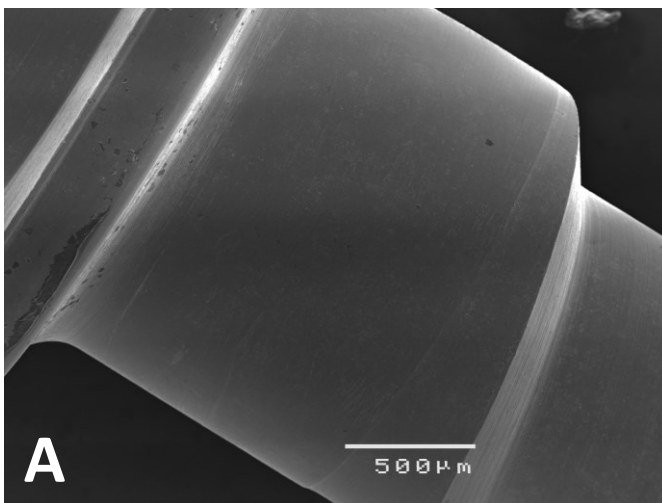
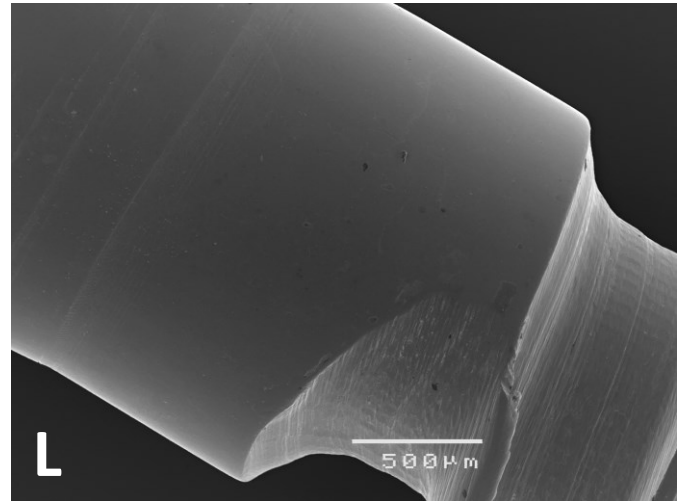
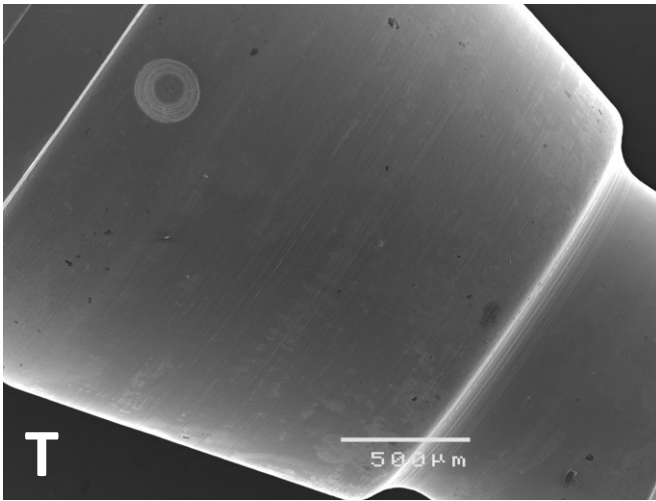


Figure 4.3 : Example of SEM images at various magnifications.

A: Aarhus, L: Leone, V: Vector, T: TOMAS

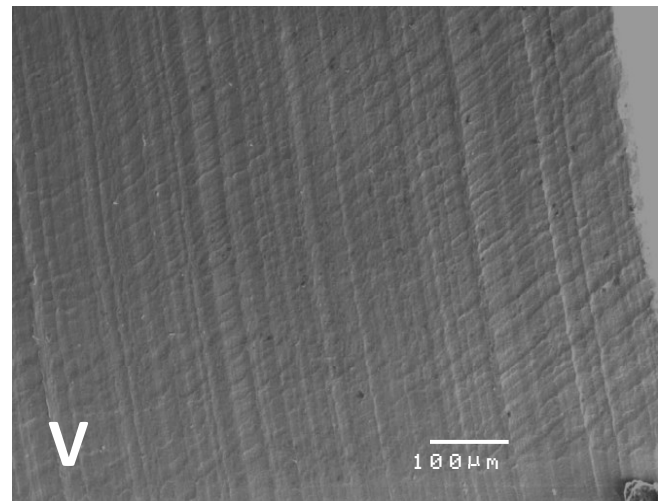
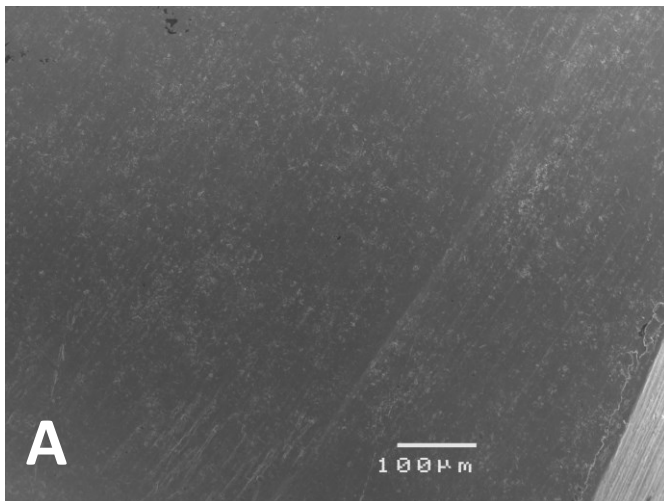
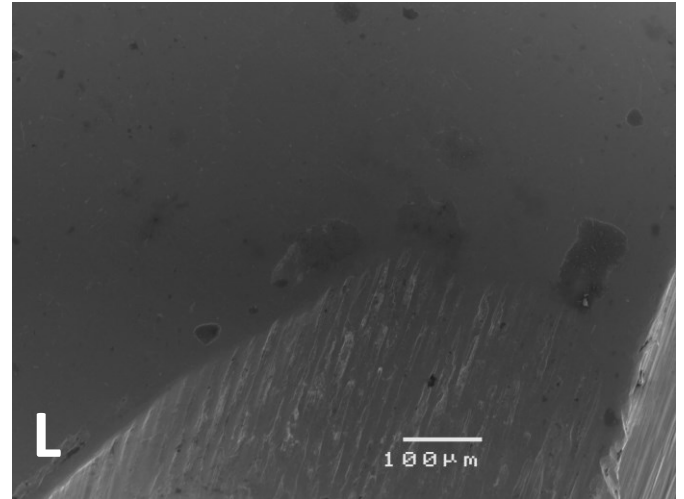
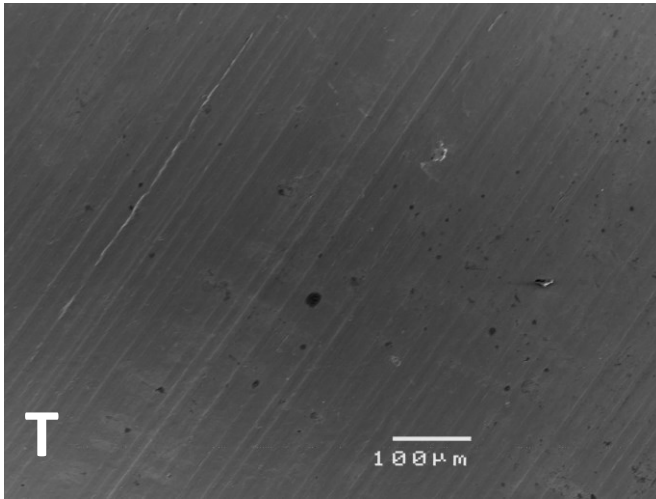
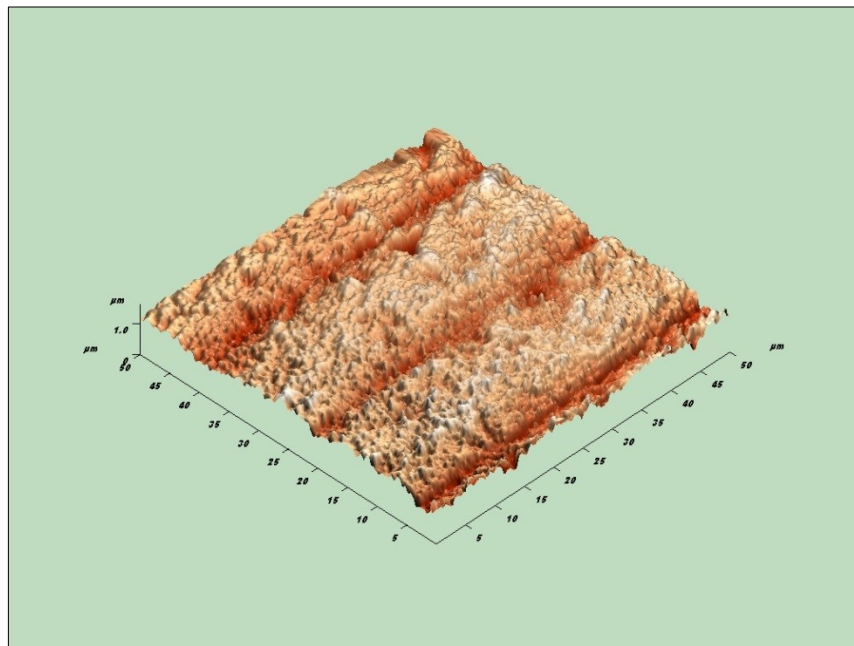


Figure 4.4 : Example of SEM images at various magnifications.

A: Aarhus, L: Leone, V: Vector, T: TOMAS

4.3 Surface roughness

The AFM outputs visual as well as numeric data. Visual data reflects the surface topography of a section of the sample while the numerical data presents an average roughness. Complete raw data in appendix C.



Sample : A1-001

<i>Amount of sampling</i>	65536	Indicates number of sites measured
<i>Max</i>	1661.25 nm	Maximum roughness measured
<i>Min</i>	0 nm	Minimum roughness measured
<i>Average Roughness, Sa</i>	<u>128.38 nm</u>	Average roughness was used

Figure 4.5 : Example of visual and numerical output for typical AFM sample.

Aarhus surface roughness plots

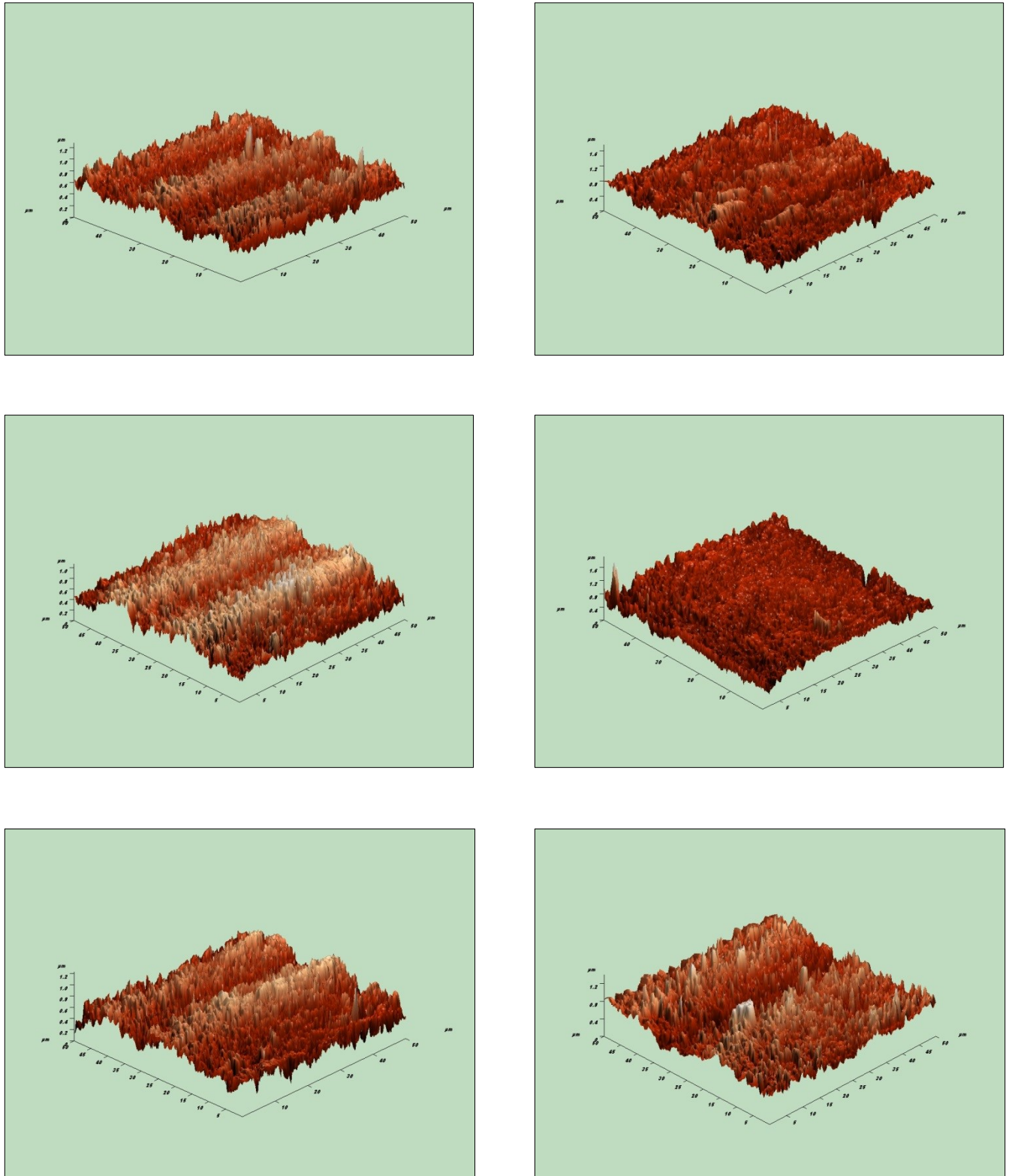


Figure 4.6 : Representation of surface roughness as measured by AFM for Aarhus

Vector surface roughness plots

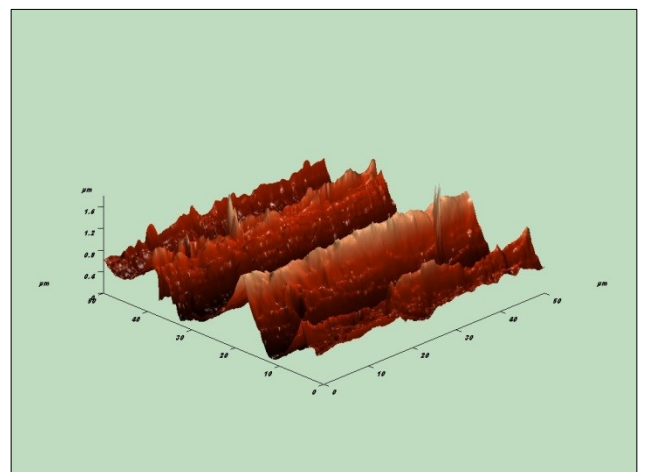
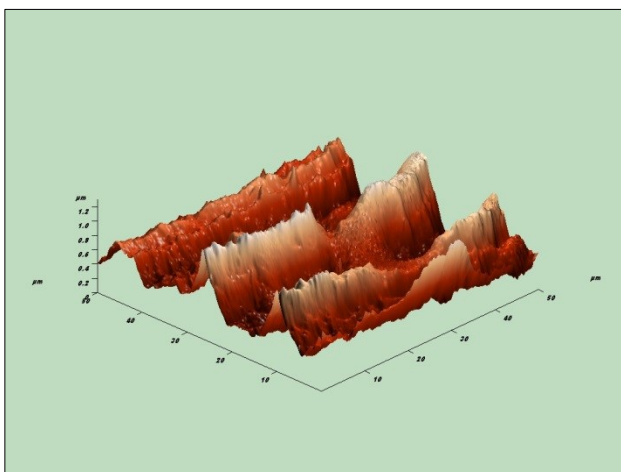
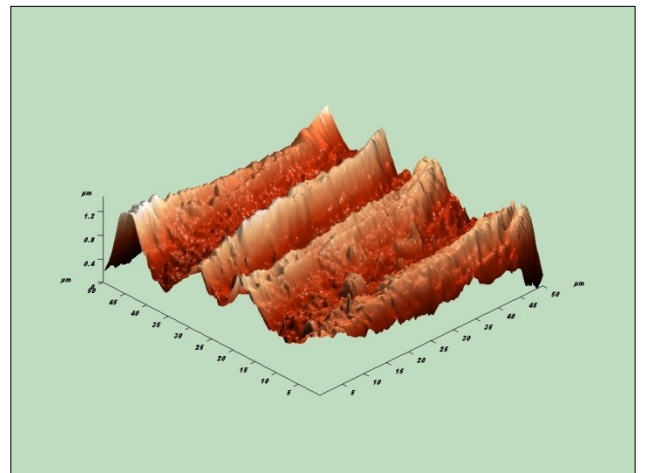
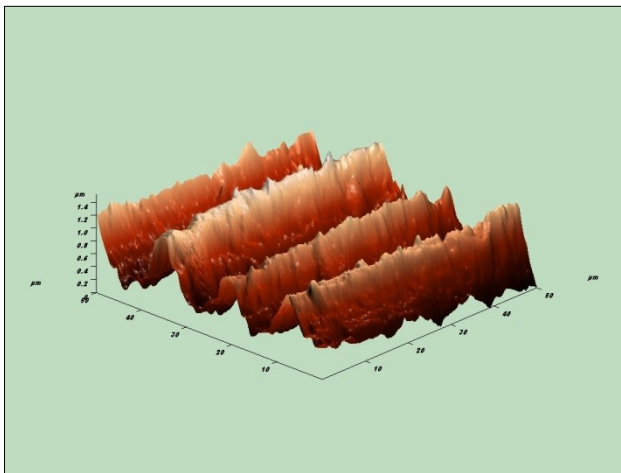
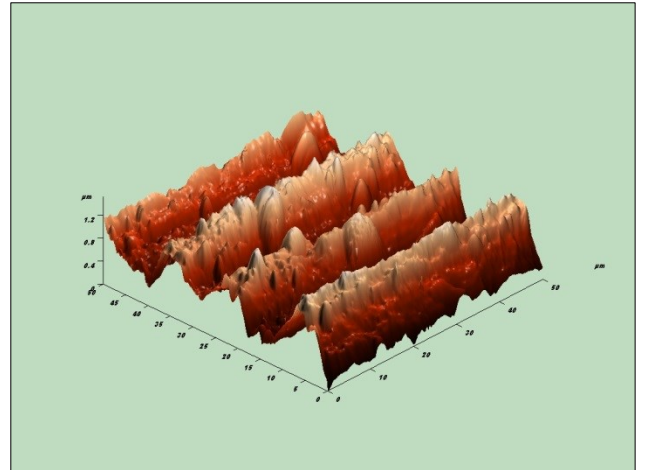
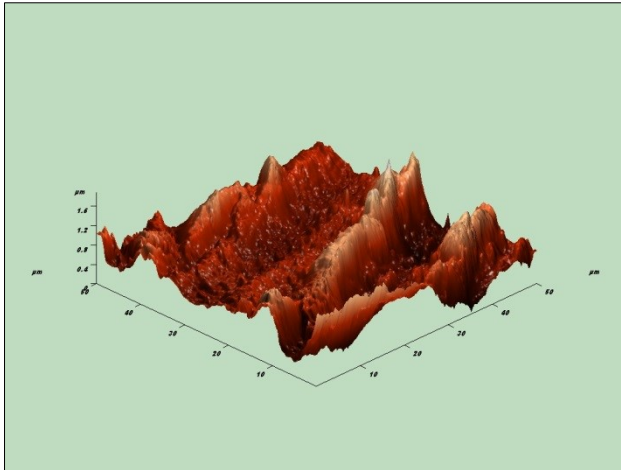


Figure 4.7 : Representation of surface roughness as measured by AFM for **Vector**

Leone surface roughness plots

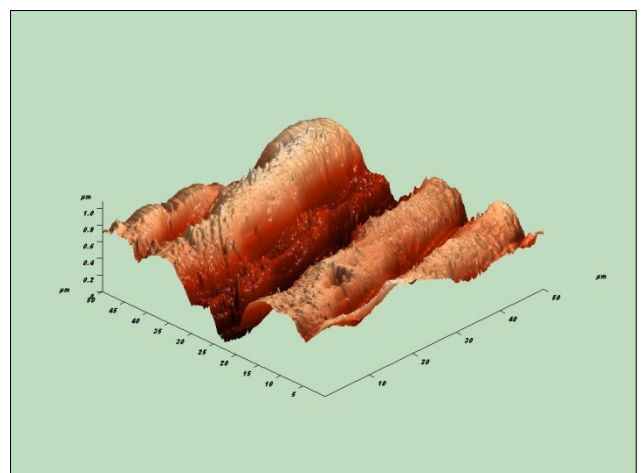
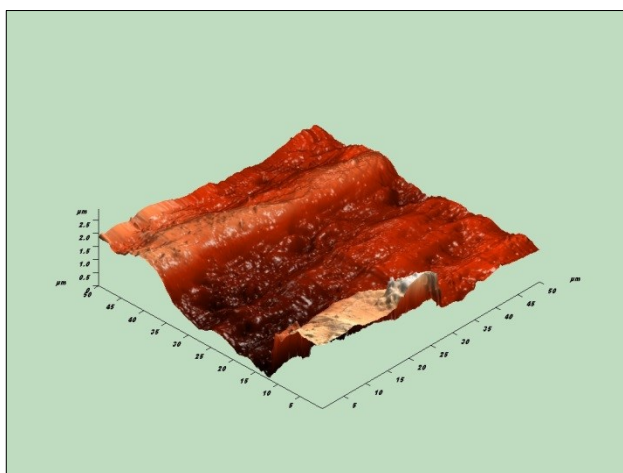
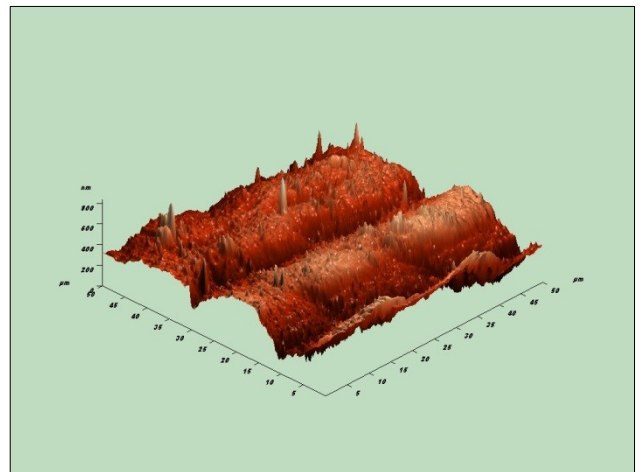
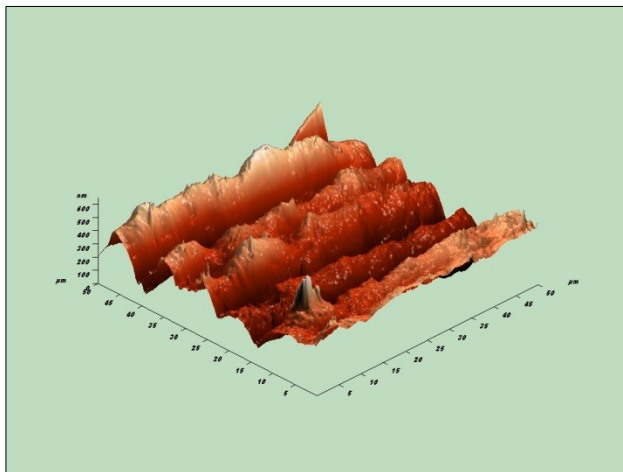
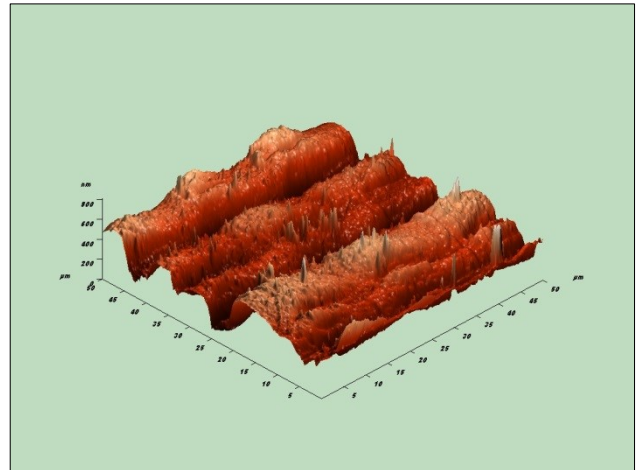
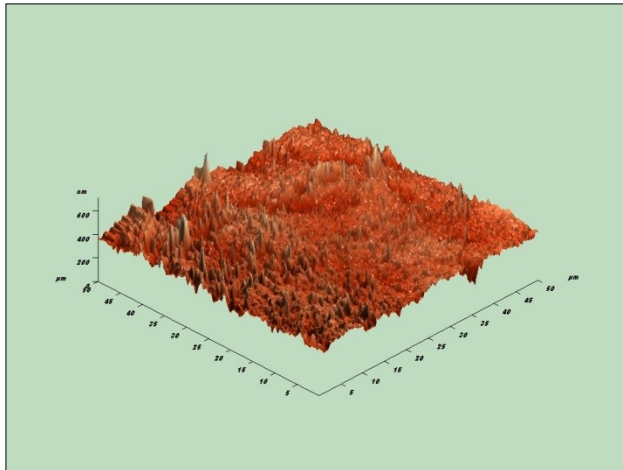


Figure 4.8 : Representation of surface roughness as measured by AFM for Leone

TOMAS surface roughness plots

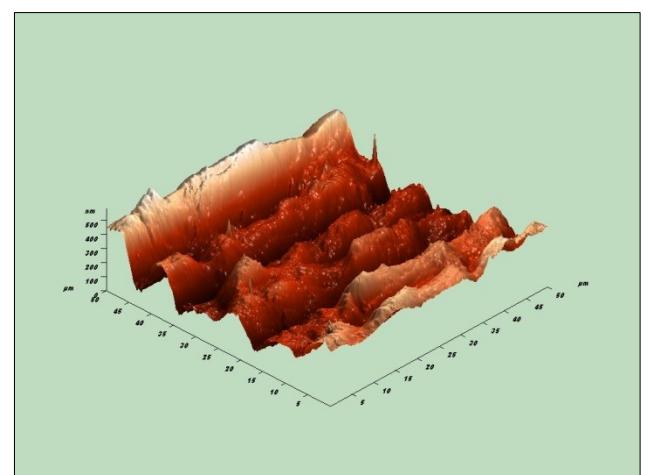
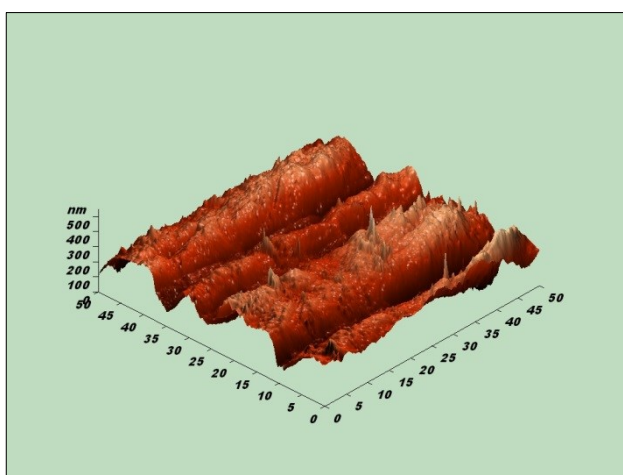
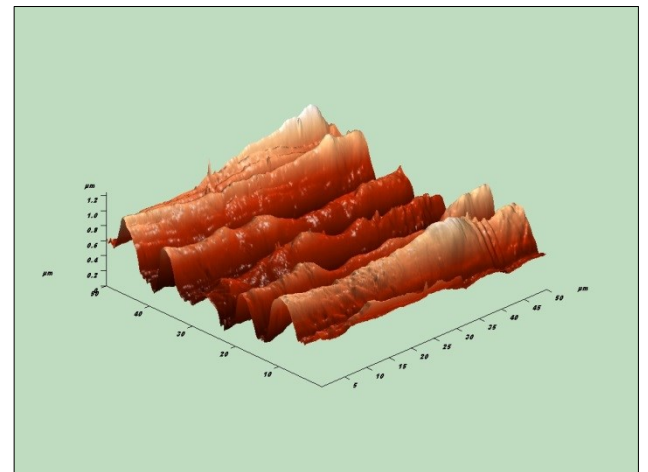
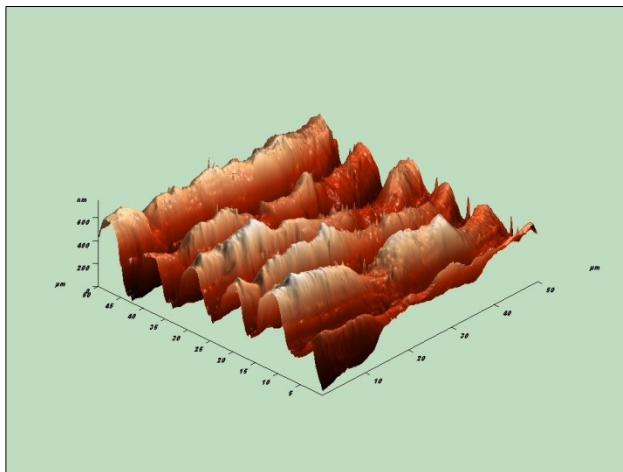
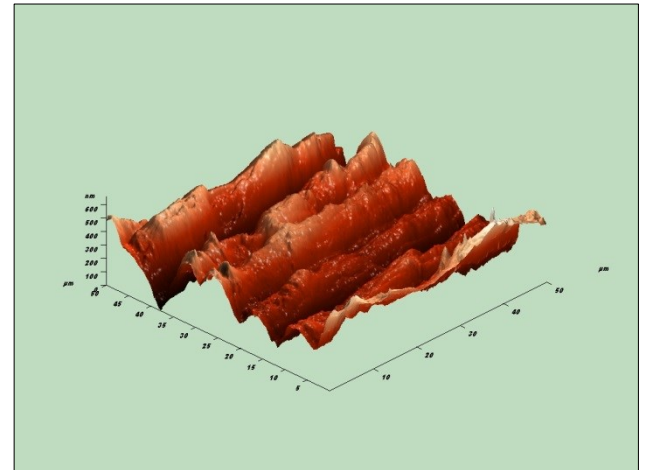
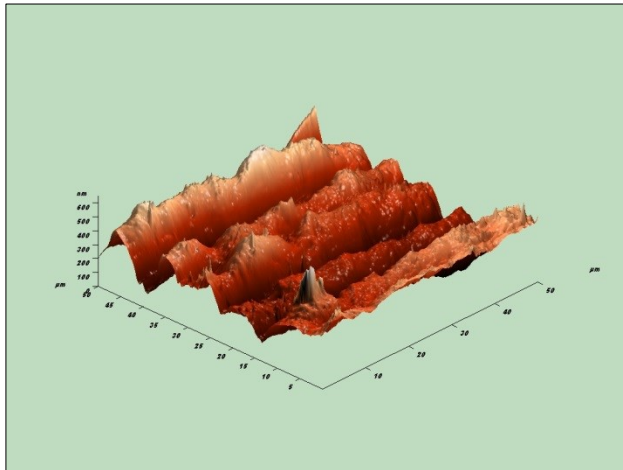


Figure 4.9 : Representation of surface roughness as measured by AFM for **TOMAS**

4.4 Surface roughness – Statistical Analysis

ANOVA (Analysis of variance of means) was chosen to compare the mean roughness between the four implant groups. Prism 6 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA USA) was used as the statistical program to run these analyses.

Table 4.2 : ANOVA: Descriptives of investigated implant groups

Descriptives

	Vector	Aarhus	TOMAS	LEONE
Number of values	16	16	16	16
Mean roughness	239.4 ± 72.10*	127.8 ± 30.24	105.9 ± 72.10	119.9 ± 49.02

* indicates $p < 0.05$

Table 4.3 : ANOVA: Roughness of investigated implant groups

Roughness

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	181239.14	3	60413.04	15.62	.00
Within Groups	232013.77	60	3866.89		
Total	413252.91	63			

Table 4.4 : ANOVA Multiple comparisons showing
Roughness of investigated implant groups

Dependent Variable: Roughness (nm)

Statistical test : One way ANOVA with post-hoc Tuckey analysis

Group	Group	Mean Difference	Std. Error	Sig. (P)	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Aarhus	Vector	-111.63*	21.99	.00	-171.62	-51.64
	TOMAS	21.92	21.99	1.00	-38.07	81.91
	Leone	7.84	21.99	1.00	-52.15	67.83
Vector	Aarhus	111.63*	21.99	.00	51.64	171.62
	TOMAS	133.55*	21.99	.00	73.56	193.54
	Leone	119.47*	21.99	.00	59.48	179.46
TOMAS	Aarhus	-21.92	21.99	1.00	-81.91	38.07
	Vector	-133.55*	21.99	.00	-193.54	-73.56
	Leone	-14.08	21.99	1.00	-74.07	45.91
Leone	Aarhus	-7.84	21.99	1.00	-67.83	52.15
	Vector	-119.47*	21.99	.00	-179.46	-59.48
	TOMAS	14.08	21.99	1.00	-45.91	74.07

* indicates $p < 0.05$.

$F_{(3, 60)} = 15.63$

Mean roughness values of investigated implant groups

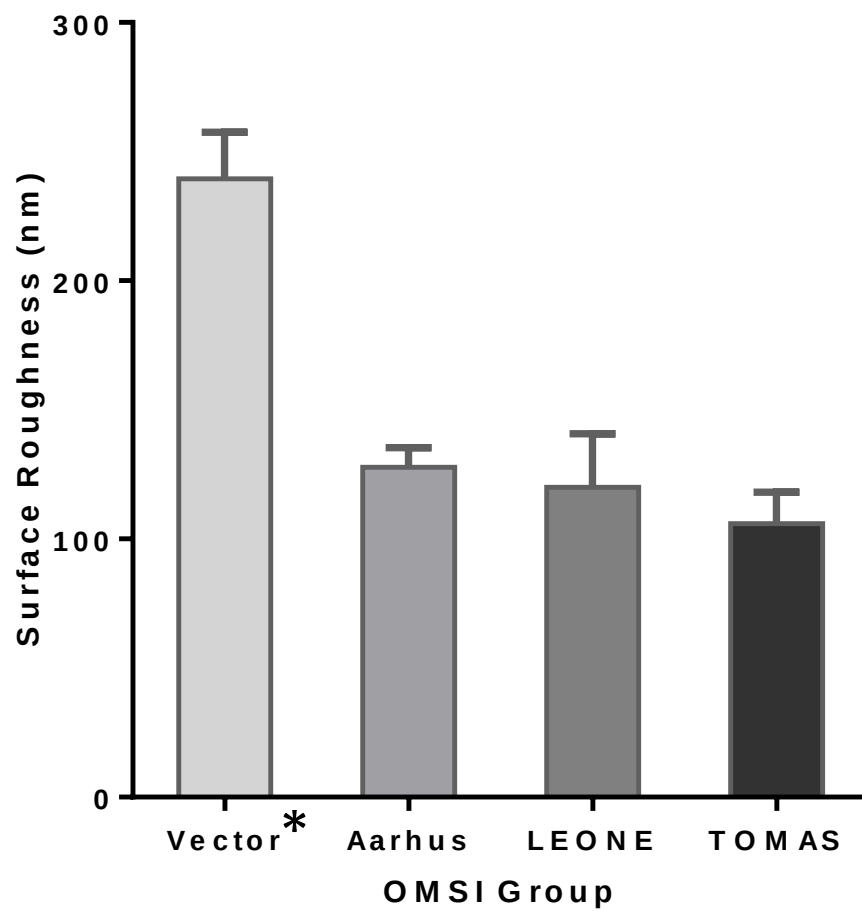


Figure 4.10 : Box plot showing the mean roughness of investigated implant groups. * indicates $p < 0.05$

4.5 Bacterial growth on implant groups

Data was visually output from the BD FACSCanto II BD FACSCanto II (San Jose, CA, USA) as graphical data. The image in Figure 4.11 illustrates a typical data set whereby the scatter is reported on the y axis, and the bacteria on the x axis. Using FCS, the scatter of a particular wavelength can help to determine a particular stained substance. In this case, live and dead bacteria.

The total bacteria are represented by the collective density in the centre of the image. The immunofluorescent beads can be seen just on the right hand side grouped together as a cluster. Similarly, data was represented in histogram format whereby the amount of bacteria could be quantified once calibrated with the known quantity of immunofluorescent beads.

Figure 4.12 illustrates a sample graph where no intervention was used. 98% of the cell population are alive with only a small number of reported dead cells. Propidium Iodide binds to the dead bacteria and hence describes their numbers. This shows up on the histogram as a second spike in the wavelength on the right hand side. It is evident that there are a low proportion of dead bacteria. However, Figure 4.13 shows a higher proportion of dead bacteria due to an intervention of chlorhexidine as described earlier.

Finally Figure 4.14 shows a similar pattern but slightly lesser so. This data was manipulated in FlowJo LLC Data analysis software (Oregon, USA). Numerical figures of bacterial numbers were ascertained, and further statistical analysis carried out in Prism 6 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA USA).

The mean bacteria per mm² of each implant group was carried out by using the number of bacteria divided by the total surface area of the respective implant group. The total bacteria were represented by the sum of live and dead bacteria.

Graph showing scatter Vs. thiazole orange stain (Sample B1)

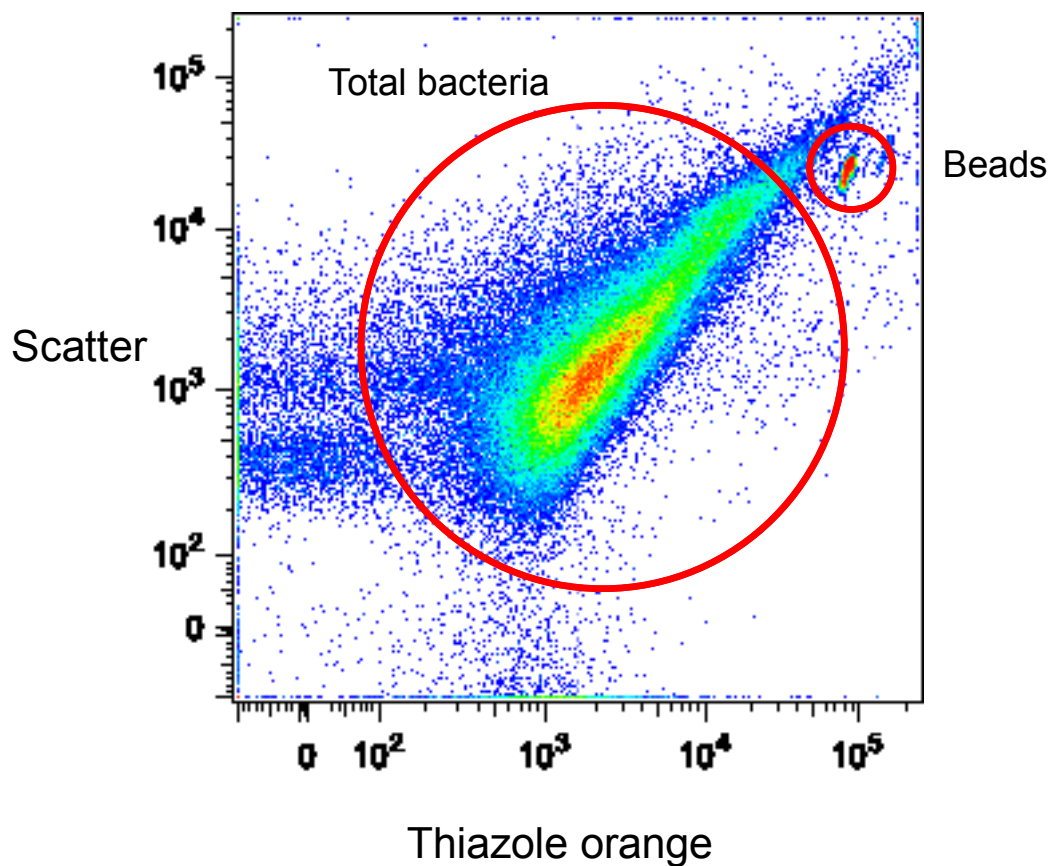


Figure 4.11 : Graph showing scatter vs. thiazole orange stain (Sample B1)

Red indicated dense bacterial concentration the spectrum reduces as we move from red towards the periphery indicating fewer bacteria. The wavelength of the immunofluorescent beads is known and they show up on the right (circled) as a constant.

Graph showing total number of cells vs. propidium iodide (Sample B1 – **No intervention**)

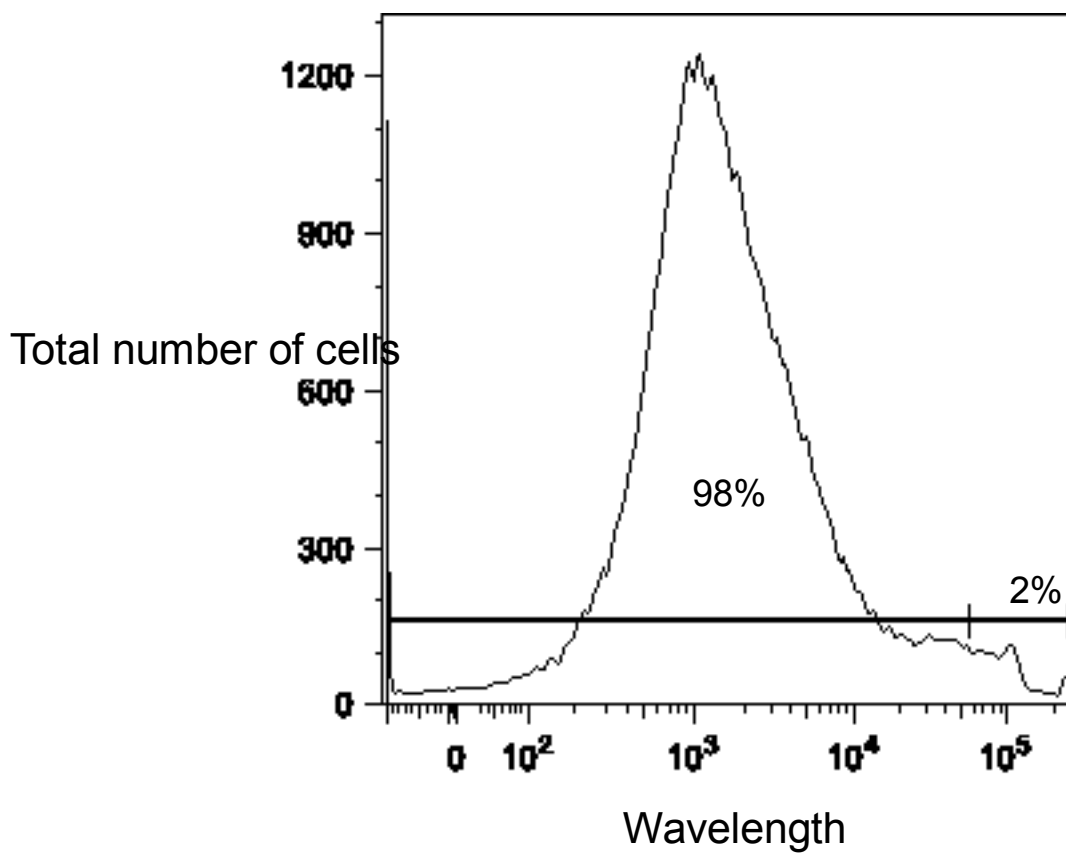


Figure 4.12 : Graph of number of cells vs. PI for typical sample (No Intervention)
Second spike of higher wavelength (RHS) indicates dead bacteria which are stained with PI.

Graph showing total number of cells vs. propidium iodide (Sample B2 - Chlorhexidine)

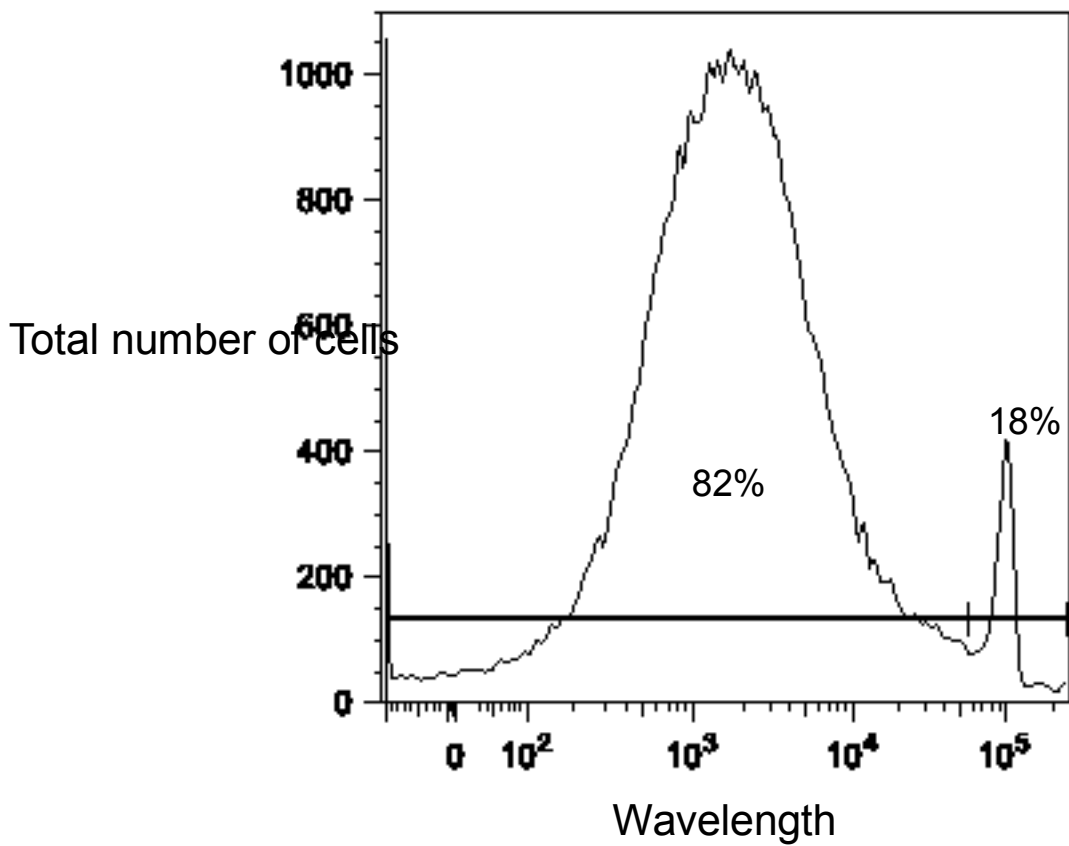


Figure 4.13 : Graph showing number of cells vs. PI for typical sample (CHX). Second spike of higher wavelength (RHS) indicates dead bacteria which are stained with PI.

Graph showing total number of cells vs. propidium iodide (Sample B3 - Fluoride)

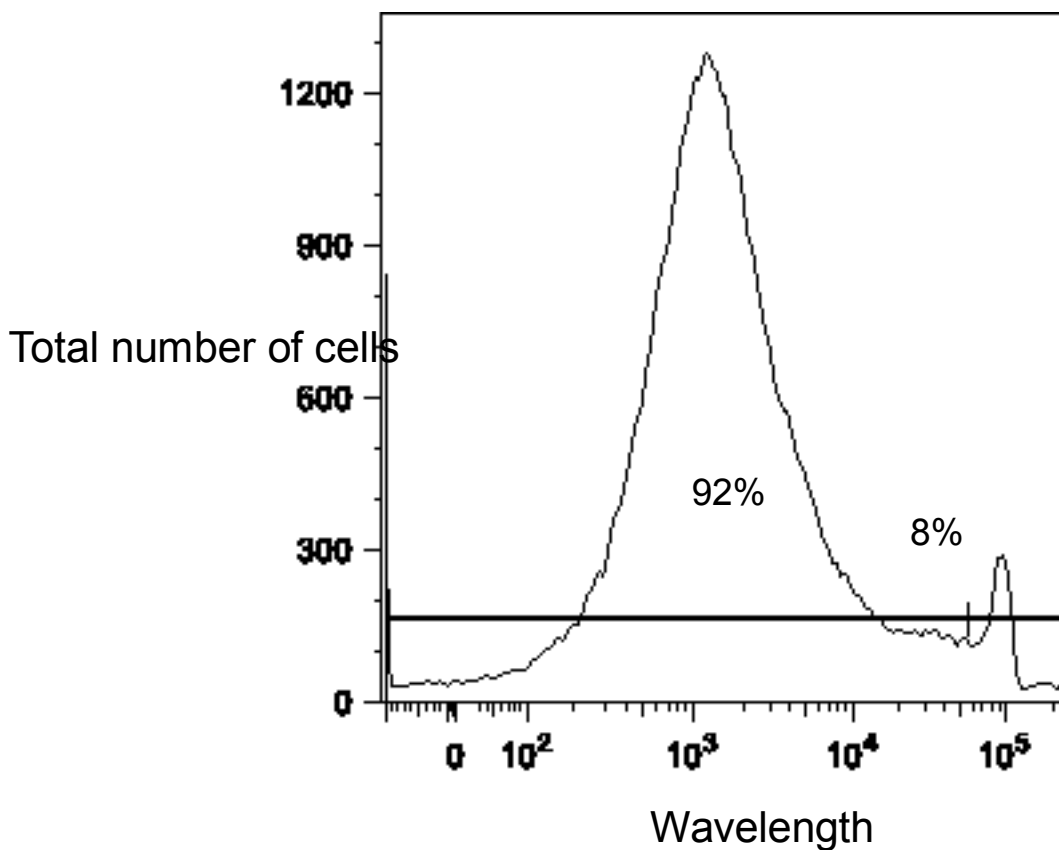


Figure 4.14 : Graph showing number of cells vs. PI for typical sample (Fluoride)
Second spike of higher wavelength (RHS) indicates dead bacteria which are stained with PI.

4.6 Bacterial growth – Statistical analysis

ANOVA (Analysis of variance of means) was chosen to compare the number of bacteria (per mm²) roughness between the four implant groups. Prism 6 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA USA) was used as the statistical program to run these analyses. Complete raw data available in Appendix D-G.

Table 4.5 : One-way ANOVA to compare means of biofilm formation

Descriptives

	Vector	Aarhus	Leone	TOMAS
Number of values	7	7	7	7
Mean Bacteria (per mm²)	180492*	159485	72440	94590
Std. Deviation	± 69456	± 50899	± 11584	± 24535

* indicates $p < 0.05$

ANOVA summary

F	9.096
P value	0.0003
P value summary	***
Are differences among means statistically significant? ($P < 0.05$)	Yes
R square	0.5321

Table 4.6 : Comparisons of number of biofilm grown on implant groups

Statistical test : One way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey analysis

Dependent Variable: Number of bacteria (per mm²)

	Mean Diff.	Significant?	Summary
Vector vs. Aarhus	21007	No	ns
Vector vs. TOMAS	108052	Yes	**
Vector vs. Leone	85903	Yes	*
Aarhus vs. TOMAS	87046	Yes	*
Aarhus vs. Leone	64896	No	ns
TOMAS vs. Leone	-22150	No	ns

* indicates $p < 0.05$

** indicates $p < 0.01$

ns indicates not significant

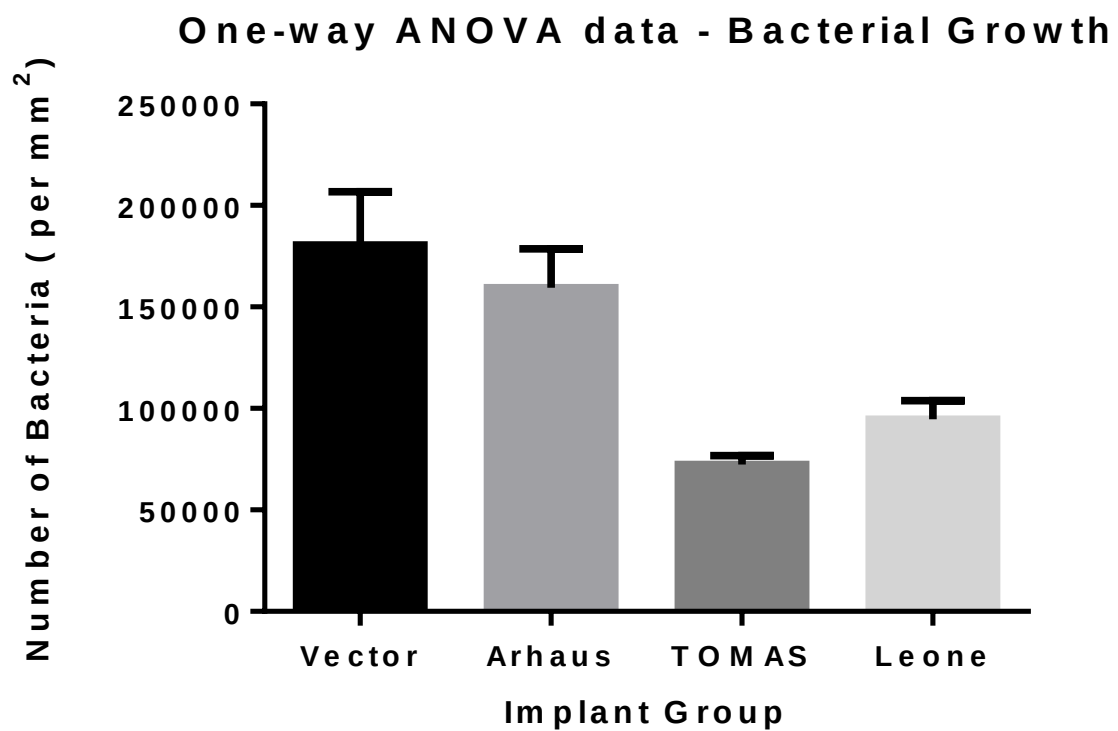


Figure 4.15 : Box plot showing the mean bacteria grown on each implant group.

The Vector implants were previously shown to be the roughest implants. They had a mean roughness ($p < 0.00$) of 239.4 ± 72.10 nm also had the greatest amount of biofilm aggregation ($1.8 \pm 0.7 \times 10^5$ bacteria / mm^2), ($p < 0.00$).

This was followed by the Aarhus group: mean roughness of 127.8 ± 30.24 nm and bacterial aggregation of $1.5 \pm 0.5 \times 10^5$ bacteria / mm^2 . Next the Leone group: mean roughness of 119.9 ± 83.38 nm and bacterial aggregation of $0.95 \pm 0.5 \times 10^5$ bacteria / mm^2 . Finally, the TOMAS group: mean roughness of 127.8 ± 30.24 nm and bacterial aggregation of $0.7 \pm 1.2 \times 10^5$ bacteria / mm^2 .

Thus it appears from the groups analysed, anodized titanium alloy OMSI (Vector and Aarhus) appear roughest and accumulate the highest amount of bacteria per mm^2 followed by stainless steel (Leone). Machined titanium OMSI (TOMAS) appear to have the smoothest surface finish and have shown to accumulate the least amount of bacteria.

C

4.7 Bacterial growth – Antimicrobial agents

The proportion of dead bacteria was measured in each intervention - chlorhexidine and fluoride. Paired t tests were used to compare the efficacy of each antimicrobial agent across all the implant groups. On average, fluoride had a dead proportion of $12.8 \pm 4.5\%$ whilst chlorhexidine had a dead proportion of $36.5 \pm 11\%$.

The antimicrobial efficacy of Chlorhexidine was greater than double than that of fluoride ($p < 0.0001$).

Table 4.7 : Paired t-tests: Mean killing efficiency of CHX and F
(Across all groups)

Descriptives			
	Dead Proportion (Chlorhexidine) All implant Groups	Dead Proportion (Fluoride) All implant Groups	Difference in Dead Proportion
<i>n</i>	28	28	28
Mean	0.36 ± 0.11	0.13 ± 0.05	$0.24^* \pm 0.12$

* indicates $p < 0.05$

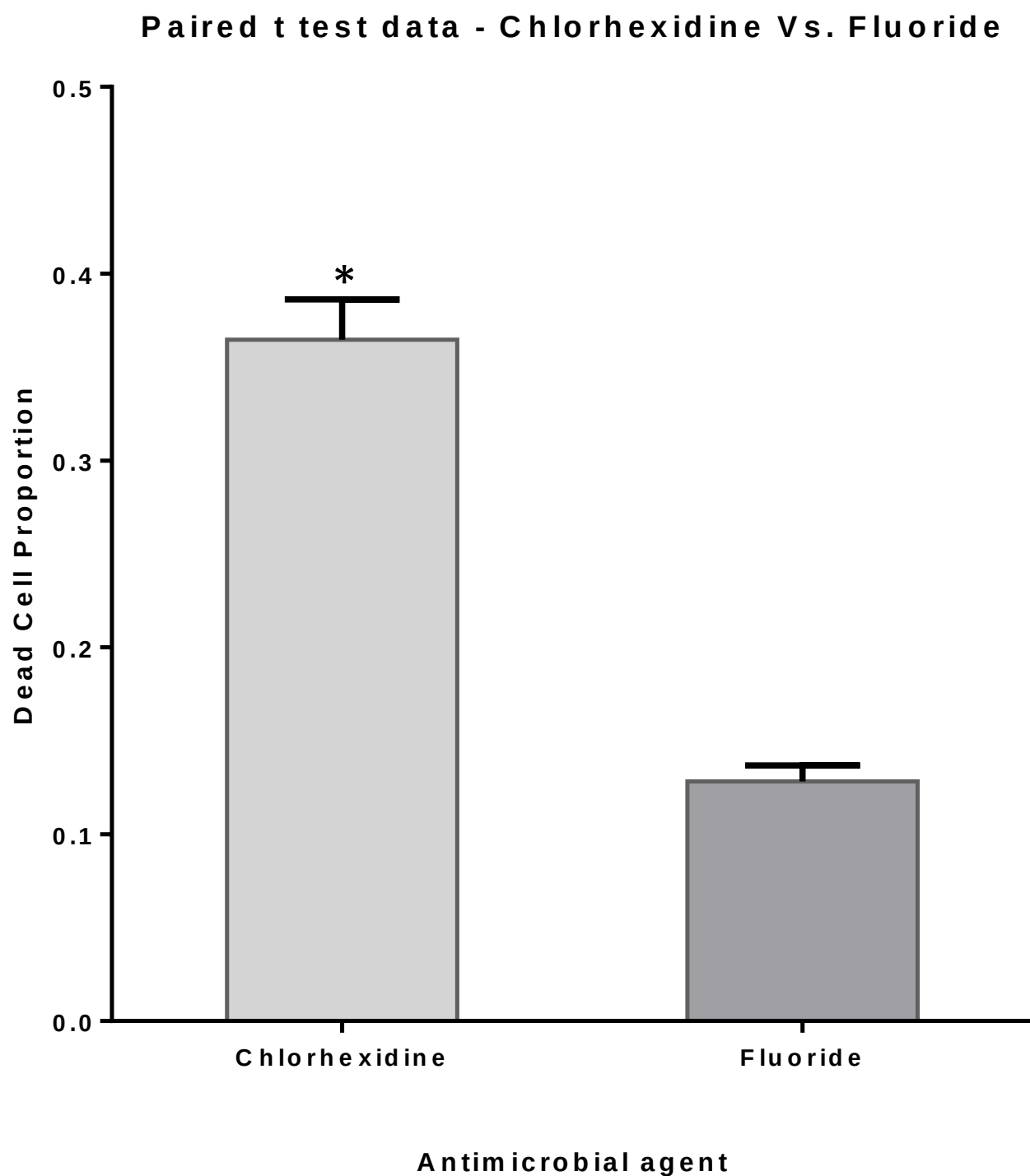


Figure 4.16 : Box plot of killing efficiency of CHX Vs. F on the surface of OMSI. Higher dead proportion indicates better killing efficacy. * indicates $p < 0.05$

Comparison of Chlorhexidine and Fluoride efficacy across implant groups

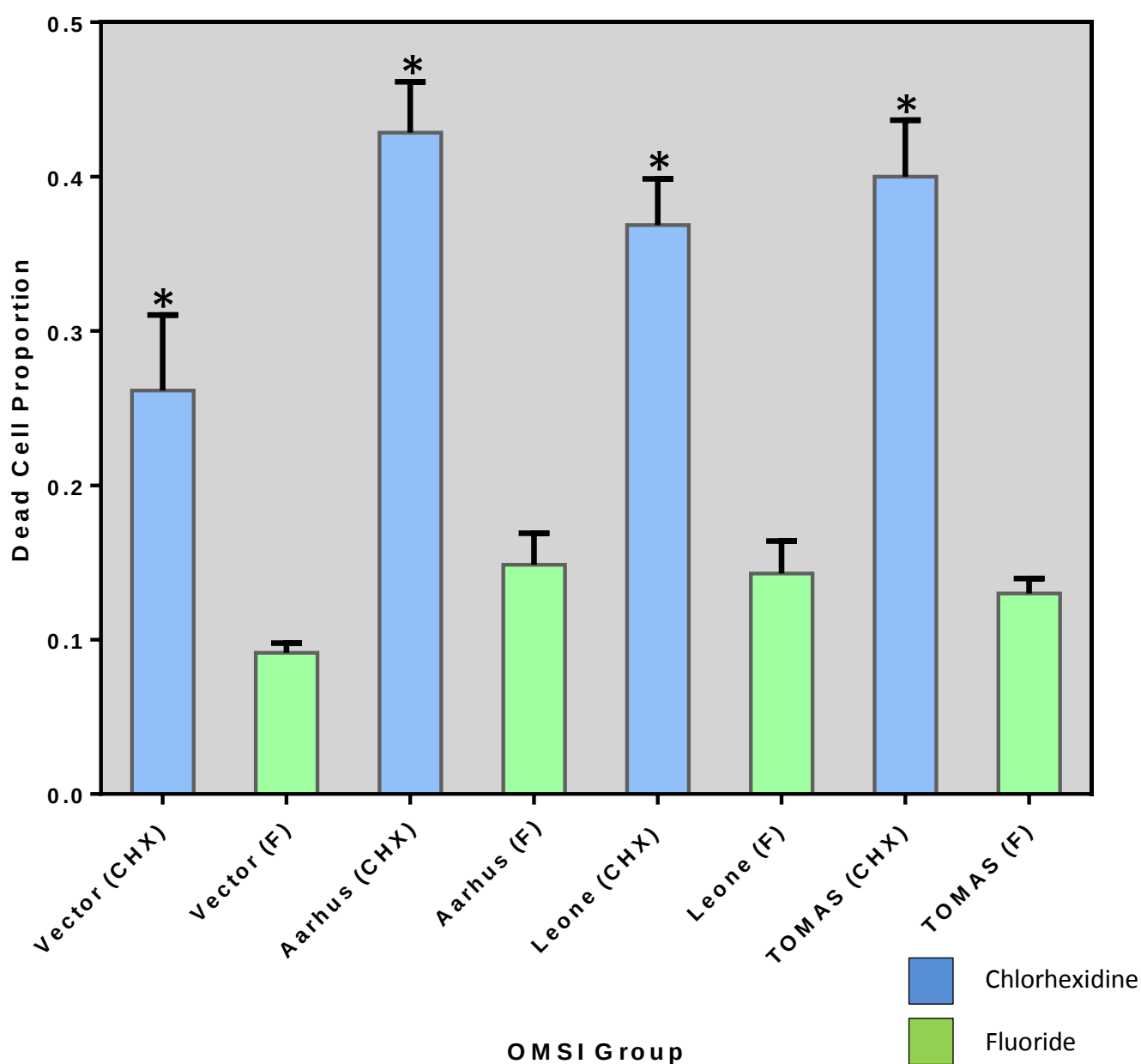


Figure 4.17 : Box plot of killing efficiency of CHX vs. F on OMSI (Across all groups)
Higher dead proportion indicates better killing efficacy. * indicates $p < 0.05$

It should also be noted that when the effectiveness of CHX was compared across all implant groups, the Vector group exhibited the least dead proportion of cells (highest cell viability). This was significant when compared to the Aarhus group ($p<0.05$), however not significant when compared to TOMAS or Leone.

As mentioned previously, there was significantly reduced antimicrobial effect demonstrated with F when compared with CHX ($p<0.001$). However, no significant differences could be detected when F efficacy was compared across all OMSI groups.

Chapter 5

Discussion

5.1 Discussion

It seems that the dream for an efficient and effective temporary anchorage device has almost been realised with the introduction of OMSI. Their overwhelming popularity both in clinical practice and the research field suggests that this introduction to the orthodontist's armamentarium is leading to a paradigm shift with respect to traditional principles of orthodontics. However, the relatively low and variable success rate of OMSI ^{211 259 200 176 187 260 94} raises questions as to the reliability of such a method of anchorage control. Furthermore these products are available to the clinical orthodontist in a myriad of materials and numerous permutations of surface finishes. There remains limited scientific data to assist clinicians in choosing an OMSI system.

One area that the literature that remains comprehensively unaddressed is biofilm formation on OMSIs. Biofilm formation has been linked with inflammation of the peri implant area which is implicated in their failure⁹. This study investigated the surface characteristics of commonly available OMSI and their effect on the development of biofilm. It also investigated the effect of antimicrobial agents on the grown biofilms.

5.1.1 Experimental design

Part of the design of the present study enabled us to elucidate the quantity and quality of biofilm formation on surface characterized OMSIs. This included OMSIs fabricated by machined Titanium alloy (Ti-6Al-4V), Anodised Titanium alloy (Ti-6Al-4V) and surgical grade stainless steel. They originated from various manufacturers, using freshly pooled human whole saliva as the source of biofilm organisms.

Human whole saliva is particularly relevant and realistic in this study as it partially mimics *in vivo* conditions³¹⁶. These bacteria are derived from biofilms formed on hard and soft tissues in the oral cavity³¹⁷. Furthermore human saliva provided multiple species of bacteria and was therefore more representative than a single species biofilm³¹⁸. This was particularly relevant in an antimicrobial experiment³¹⁹.

The human saliva used contained a mixture of secretions from both major and minor salivary glands, gingival crevicular fluid, bacteria and bacterial products. It also served as a source of natural nutrition for biofilm growth. The presence of some antimicrobial substances, e.g., lysozyme, lactoferrin, lactoperoxidase, and secretory IgA may seem to compromise biofilm formation *in vitro*³²⁰. However, this was further thought to emulate a realistic representation of an *in vivo* situation.

It should be noted that the results of this study pertains to an *in vitro* situation. The construction of experimental designs to ascertain the success of OMSIs *in vivo* reflects a myriad of factors which may influence the outcome. For example, the difference between success and failure may be:

- Operator experience
- Site of implantation
- Local bone density
- Force vectors applied to the OMSI
- Oral hygiene
- Peri implantitis
- Material used

This study was designed with the aim of standardising as many of these variables as possible so that the effect of biofilm growth on each surface could be assessed. Hence an *in vitro* method was selected. However, it should be noted that the results of this study are to be interpreted with caution as they do not reflect a totally accurate clinical environment. An *in vivo* design involving humans or animals may have provided a more clinically relevant setting, however control of variables would have been difficult.

5.1.2 OMSI Selection

The TADs used in this study were selected because they each exhibited slightly different design features, and varying material composition and surface finish. They ranged from anodised titanium alloy (Ti-6Al-4V), un-anodised titanium alloy, to stainless steel. In addition, they were chosen from commonly available OMSI in the Australian market.

It was attempted to use similar dimensions for the OMSI (Length 10.0 mm, Diameter 2.0 mm) however the final data was corrected using the total surface area of the OMSI. To calculate the amount of bacteria grown per mm² on each of the implant groups, the area of each OMSI was measured. Where possible, 3D scanning of the screws along with manufacturers data was used to obtain accurate measurements of the total surface area of each OMSI. This allowed direct comparison between the different groups of OMSI.

There was little price variation between the TADs. Various other OMSI designs with different surface finishes and materials were attempted to be sourced for this study, however due to regulatory reasons they could not be provided to investigate further. This would be an interesting area for further investigation.

5.1.3 Surface roughness and surface characteristics

SEM allows high magnification and high resolution imaging of samples. A beam of high energy electrons are scanned across the surface of a sample. Interaction of the electron beam with the atoms of the sample produces a number of measurable effects which include the imaging of; surface features (morphology/topography), average chemistry (mean atomic number contrast) and cathodoluminescence (visible light). Compared to light microscopes, SEM allows for far higher magnification of images with a greatly increased depth of field (focusing range).

SEM images of the OMSIs revealed that there were numerous surface irregularities and imperfections across all of the groups. Notably, the Stainless Steel group exhibited what appeared to be significant surface pitting, as well as damage to the edges of the screw threads.

This is interesting as the stainless steel group was not packaged in a sterile container. i.e. The manufacturer instructions state that the operator should sterilise the screws before their usage. During the process of sterilisation, the delicate screws are exposed to extreme heat and pressure. It is possible that the metal may fatigue further, and begin a corrosion process³²¹.

This phenomenon was not found to be unique to sterilised OMSI such as the stainless steel group. The machined titanium group (TOMAS) also exhibited this characteristic pitting however it was much less common. Pitting, and striation on OMSI surfaces have been previously described in the literature ²⁸⁴.

The manufacture of these OMSI involves them being machined from blocks of metal. Hence the cutting portion of the milling machine may leave striations. In addition, the relative age of the blade may also influence and determine its cutting ability and cleanness. I.e. a newer blade will be sharper whilst an older blade may leave more residue and contaminants behind. The resolution and accuracy of the equipment used, as well as the technique all interplay into leaving behind evidence of metal cutting on the OMSI.

Under scanning electron microscope analysis, the Aarhus group (anodised titanium alloy) appeared to possess a superiorly smooth surface when compared to the other groups. Images in this group were without the appearance of any machining striations, and or surface irregularities.

Contrastingly, the Vector group exhibited unique surface morphology in that its surface when imaged at the head and neck appeared roughest. This is in agreement with other Al Samak et al³²².

Despite also being an anodised titanium alloy like the Aarhus group, there were numerous striations also concluded to be originating from the manufacturing or finishing process. There are various methods of adonisation, and variation in this methodology may have led to the roughened characteristic we see here.

The results echoed that which was apparent from morphological examination. The Vector group was found to have significantly higher mean roughness than all other groups measured ($p < 0.00$). There were no other statistically significant differing values of roughness detected between each of the other groups.

According to the currently available literature, commonly available dental implants have surfaces that are minimally or moderately rough. This translates to an average height deviation of 0.5–2 nm. Such a roughness has been shown to promote good osseous healing and tissue interaction. This is conducive to osseointegration of the dental implants^{323 324 325 326 286}.

It has also been shown through several *in vitro* studies, surface roughness of osseointegrated implant surfaces is directly proportional to biofilm formation³²⁷
^{328 329 330 331 332}. This is a characteristic not only unique to dental implant surfaces but has also been investigated regarding other dental materials such as resins, acrylics, and composites^{333 334 335}. The literature refers to a surface roughness of 1.0 μm as moderately rough, and less than 0.5 μm as smooth³²⁴.

It is well demonstrated in the literature that under *in vivo* conditions, smooth surfaces attract less biofilm than rough ones^{336 288}. It has been concluded that an increase in surface roughness above a threshold of 0.2 μm and/or an increase in surface free-energy facilitates biofilm formation on restorative materials. When both surface characteristics interact with each other, surface roughness was found to be dominant²⁸⁸. The range of surface roughness found of OMSI in this study echo the findings of other authors²⁸⁴.

5.1.4 Surface anodising

Titanium alloy has the ability to form a protective oxide layer its surface ³³⁷. This makes allows it to have good biocompatibility with osseous tissues. Furthermore, along with its light weight, moderate cost and workability, commercially pure titanium and alloys such as Ti-6Al-4V are often the preferred materials for many orthopaedic applications ^{338 339}.

With regard to Ti-6Al-4V, it has been shown that small amounts of Al and V can be leached from the alloy inside the body and minute quantities of these ions may cause local irritation to the peri implant tissues ^{340 341}. This could be another potential area of investigation although beyond the scope of this research.

Certain modifications to surface topography of implant surfaces can also influence their physicochemical properties. For example, Omar ³⁴² has illustrated that titanium implant surfaces that have undergone anodic oxidation achieve better osseointegration. This was again proven by Karmarker et al ³⁴³ who demonstrated that anodization of OMSIs may enhance their early-phase retention capability, thereby ensuring a more reliable source of absolute anchorage.

It hypothesised that this process occurs through recruitment of mesenchymal cells, the expression of genes, and factors. For example, alkaline phosphatase and osteocalcin have been implicated in bone remodelling³⁴².

Electro-chemical modification of the dental implant surface such as anodic oxidation can be used to change the surface morphology as well as a means of enhancing osseointegration of titanium dental implants^{344 345 346}. Furthermore, it can also incorporate chemical elements from the electrolyte in order to improve protective properties^{347 348 349 349}.

Whilst the modification of OMSIs surfaces with elements such as Calcium and phosphate have been shown to induce favourable cell interactions^{350 144}, impurities can also be inadvertently incorporated resulting in less than ideal outcomes. Al Samak³²² in their study report the presence of phosphorous on the surface of Vector OMSI. They determine the presence of this element to be as a result of the anodising process. Chin et al²⁸⁴ also report the increased presence of impurities such as carbon and nitrogen on the surface of OMSI subject to elemental analysis. This has been attributed to contamination via the manufacturing procedure, storage and sterilisation. Such contaminants have been shown to make titanium surfaces more hydrophobic, thus reducing cell attachment capacity^{351 352}.

Anodic oxidation of titanium can also lead to porous surface structures which can increase surface roughness³¹⁴. This is thought to result from the production of anatase crystals which are one of the three mineral forms of titanium dioxide. This may explain the perceived increase in surface roughness of the described implant groups.

Anatase crystallinity has also been hypothesized to reduce bacterial adhesions^{353 354}. This is thought to occur as a result of photocatalytic activity of TiO₂. However, the results of this research do not reflect the antibacterial nature of this compound. Perhaps the increased roughness is an overriding factor in bacterial aggregation.

The relationship between the nanostructure of titanium surfaces and bacterial attachment has also been discussed in the literature by Pluckett³⁵⁵. This study demonstrated that nanorough titanium (created through electron beam evaporation) is superior to nanotubular and nanotextured titanium (created through anodization). This kind of titanium treatment has been shown to enhance osteoblast adhesion whilst discouraging the growth of unwanted cells.

Del Curto et al.³⁵³ also discussed a method of heat treating anodized titanium to modify the titanium oxide film. This has shown to decrease bacterial adhesion, however further work is still needed in this field.

5.1.5 Biofilm growth on implant surfaces.

The microflora of both healthy and diseased oral implants reflects that of teeth in similar clinical states^{356 281}. It is well researched that though interactions with the acquired salivary pellicle, microbial colonization is initiated by the adhesion of pioneer species, such as *Streptococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus sanguinis* and *Actinomyces naeslundii*. These microorganisms are all thought to be commensals of the oral environment³⁵⁷.

It should be noted however that exposure of an implant surface that has been optimized to encourage osseointegration to the oral environment generally results in deleterious consequences³⁵⁸. As the modified implant surfaces are optimized for tissue healing, bacteria take advantage of such surfaces and adhere. Biofilm growth is subsequently promoted through the attraction of further secondary and tertiary colonisers. Layered structures develop which allow microbial communities to live in close physical contact.

Interactions between microorganisms facilitate the ability of the microorganisms to survive under environmentally stressful conditions as well as in the presence of antimicrobial agents^{359 360 361}.

Interactions between biomaterial surfaces and bacteria are thought to be based on a variety of forces including electrostatic, Lifshitz–Van der Waals and hydrophobic forces, as well as various specific receptor–ligand interactions ³⁶²

³⁶³ ³⁶⁴ .

In the case of bacteria, the negative charge of most metal biomaterial surfaces at physiological pH is believed to initially repel negatively charged bacteria ³⁶⁵ ³⁶⁶ ³⁶⁷. This effect is, however limited in time since it is known that surfaces of biomaterial implants become rapidly coated with host plasma constituents, including extracellular matrix proteins and other biomolecules once they are implanted in the body ³⁶⁸ ³⁶⁹. In addition, not all pathogens are negatively charged at physiological pH.

Furthermore, in the case of anodic oxide layers, it has been shown that the formation conditions of the anodic oxide layer and composition, concentration and pH value of the solution which is in contact with the anodized surfaces can influence on the charge and hydrophilic/hydrophobic characteristics of the surface ³⁷⁰.

5.1.6 The future of biomaterial coatings

Further research into coatings for biomaterials is warranted. Currently, most coatings for OMSI are mono-functional in that they are designed primarily to discourage biofilm formation, or enhance osseous contact. One approach that has been suggested has been to include a bi-functional coating containing anti-adhesive functionalities, such as a polyethylene glycol polymer brush to discourage biofilm formation, while at the same time possessing functionalities like arginine-glycine-aspartic acid sequences to support tissue integration^{371 372}. Harris et al. demonstrated an example of differential adhesion on titanium oxide surfaces coated with Poly(L-lysine)-grafted-poly(ethylene glycol) (PLL-g-PEG). In their in vitro study, they demonstrated that surfaces coated with PLL-g-PEG/PEG-RGD have the ability to attach cells such as fibroblasts and osteoblasts while showing reduced *Streptococcus aureus* adhesion, resulting in a selective bio-interaction pattern³⁷³.

Such features may improve the biocompatibility and retention of OMSI³⁵⁴.

However it should be noted that their implementation is also likely to increase the costs of OMSI.

5.1.7 Choice of Antimicrobial Agents

The chemo manipulation of biofilms around OMSIs remains an important part of their maintenance. Mechanical debridement of the area can cause trauma, and localised inflammation which may lead to negative outcomes for the OMSI such as reduced stability and eventual loss. Patients should be instructed on light, mechanical debridement with a soft toothbrush. However commonly available antimicrobial agents may prove more effective when used in unison with mechanical debridement.

This study investigated the immediate *in vitro* bactericidal effects of commercially available chlorhexidine and fluoride mouth rinses in the biofilm mode of growth on micro-implant surfaces. The exposure time of 1 minute was designed to simulate a single rinse of chlorhexidine or fluoride rinse used in a clinical situation.

The initial cell viability of biofilms of $82.4 \pm 15.8\%$ was in agreement with past studies into the viability of similar biofilms^{284 374}. It has been revealed that with increasing time, viability decreases³⁷⁴. This has been hypothesized to occur as a result of the antimicrobial effect of the saliva on the biofilm²⁹⁸.

Indeed the effective antimicrobial ability of both agents was demonstrated in this experiment. With chlorhexidine demonstrating greater than twice as effective at killing bacteria than fluoride ($p < 0.0001$).

The effectiveness of these antimicrobial agents is in agreement with numerous other studies using either *in vitro* biofilm models or biofilm scrapings from intra-oral surfaces, which reported biofilm viability ranging from 7% to 23% for chlorhexidine and 14% to 54% for fluoride, respectively^{374 297 375}.

The exposure of bacteria to the antimicrobial agents in this experiment was only 1 minute. Thus with longer exposure it is hypothesised that the antimicrobial effect would be greater.

Furthermore, whilst commercially available mouth rinses with set concentrations were selected in this study, it is also anticipated that increasing concentration of antimicrobial agent will prove more effective.

Chlorhexidine is unique in that the cationic nature of the molecule allows binding to surfaces. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as substantivity. Previous studies have shown that chlorhexidine adsorption is proportional to increased roughness^{376 377}. However, as discussed, increased roughness may also increase bacterial aggregation.

Crystalline titanium dioxide most commonly exists in one of the two structures, anatase and rutile, and both of these have been observed on commercially available dental implants. Barbour et al.³⁷⁸ demonstrated that there is a preferential adsorption of chlorhexidine to anatase compared with rutile.

Comparatively, fluoride has been shown by various studies to induce a spectrum of effects on titanium alloys as it has been shown that their action is relatively aggressive on the protective layer of titanium and titanium alloys^{379 380 381}. The presence of F ions may possibly start a localized corrosive degradation by pitting and crevice corrosion processes³⁸⁰. This can in turn lead to morphological variations, such as increased roughness³⁸². In the case of other orthodontic materials such as NiTi wires, fracture of the wire under masticatory load has been documented³⁸³. It should also be noted that the formation of biofilms on OMSIs leads to a localised reduction in pH and the depletion of oxygen. Both of these processes may accelerate the deterioration of the protective titanium oxide layer on such devices³⁸⁴. Thus according to the results of this study, such an effect has a positive feedback on the growth of biofilms.

Furthermore, the corrosion of Titanium OMSIs facilitated by low pH and F ions may lead to leaching of metallic ions into the adjacent tissues. This has been shown to cause localised inflammation^{385 386}.

However this only occurs over a significant period of time, and due to the temporary nature of OMSIs, it is thought that any deleterious effect may be clinically insignificant.

Although beyond the scope of this study, it would be interesting to conduct investigation into the change in surface properties, of the OMSI after a period of exposure to F. In addition, whilst not investigated here, the anti caries benefit of F is unrivalled and this its application may be linked to other needs^{387 388 389}.

With respect to the investigated antimicrobial agents, the current literature as well as the finding of this study suggests that chlorhexidine remain a pertinent choice for clinicians when recommending an antimicrobial agent to effectively clean OMSI *in situ*. Contrastingly F is not as effective an antimicrobial agent, although its anti-cariogenic properties may address other needs in the susceptible individual.

Chapter 6

Conclusions

6.1 Conclusions

The results of the present study provide additional data which may be helpful in identifying surface characteristics of OMSI and how they affect biofilm growth.

The study fulfilled the aims and objectives set within the limitation of an *in vitro* model. All of the null hypotheses were proven incorrect with statistically significant differences found in;

- The surface roughness between implant groups.
- The amount of growth of biofilm between implant groups.
- The killing efficacy of antimicrobial agents.

Based on the results of this study, there appears to be a relationship between increased surface roughness and increased biofilm growth. Anodized surfaces on titanium alloy appear to possess the roughest surface, whilst stainless steel and machined uncoated titanium are amongst the smoothest. This may be a factor in the operator choosing an appropriate OMSI system for use in their patients to limit the amount of biofilm growth.

Furthermore, when selecting an antimicrobial agent to assist patients in keeping OMSIs plaque free, chlorhexidine remains the best choice when compared to fluoride. It provides greater than twice the efficacy of fluoride, and has increased substantively.

However, caution must be exercised in extrapolating the findings of this *in vitro* study to an *in vivo* situation. Further research is required to investigate the clinical implications of such surface roughness on biofilm formation on these implants. Perhaps the use of an animal model within the framework of a randomized clinical trial would provide the next step of evidence on the hierarchical pyramid.

Chapter 7

Appendices

7.1 Appendix A: Ethics approval

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7.2 Appendix B: Ethics information form

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7.3 Appendix B: Ethics consent form

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7.4 Appendix C: Roughness data

	Aarhus	Vector	TOMAS	Leone
1	128.38	239.651	88.9748	54.1807
2	133.035	232.285	104.601	62.4042
3	145.246	250.836	114.844	61.0109
4	130.352	269.771	88.9748	102.995
5	139.145	221.456	86.3039	91.4909
6	96.0455	377.972	92.8152	92.8362
7	115.489	270.214	127.424	27.9944
8	110.195	209.303	236.989	112.465
9	84.5752	151.289	196.785	91.9291
10	94.2063	129.301	59.152	91.8346
11	101.433	176.195	66.5125	378.173
12	160.132	299.414	50.6577	227.013
13	138.499	214.119	86.8262	132.307
14	207.201	151.287	120.928	170.076
15	112.864	259.568	105.534	99.2856
16	147.737	377.972	66.5125	123.153

Table 7.1 : RAW Data used to calculate mean surface roughness of implant groups.
All roughness listed in nanometres (nm)

7.5 Appendix D: Biofilm data (Vector)

Sample		Total bacteria in sample / mm ²	Total live in sample / mm ²	Total dead in sample / mm ²	DEAD Proportion	LIVE Proportion
1	V1	142514.21	140960.65	1553.56	0.01	0.99
2	V1	184178.53	176907.11	7271.42	0.04	0.96
3	V1	146277.97	135453.40	10824.57	0.07	0.93
4	V1	196215.83	190190.20	6025.63	0.03	0.97
5	V1	146699.08	139832.19	6866.89	0.05	0.95
6	V1	120869.80	114584.57	6285.23	0.05	0.95
7	V1	326690.20	320547.20	6143.00	0.02	0.98
8	V2	10515.06	9964.27	550.79	0.05	0.95
9	V2	349534.52	223117.18	126417.34	0.36	0.64
10	V2	194217.18	143068.38	51148.80	0.26	0.74
11	V2	208767.35	137969.25	70798.10	0.34	0.66
12	V2	166550.57	97059.14	69491.43	0.42	0.58
13	V2	323323.83	279079.51	44244.31	0.14	0.86
14	V2	326141.92	241976.26	84165.66	0.26	0.74
15	V3	219438.06	198015.62	21422.44	0.10	0.90
16	V3	204079.62	188037.15	16042.47	0.08	0.92
17	V3	155738.75	138208.61	17530.14	0.11	0.89
18	V3	121115.08	108832.98	12282.09	0.10	0.90
19	V3	316788.69	297848.57	18940.11	0.06	0.94
20	V3	257072.55	232303.96	24768.59	0.10	0.90
21	V3	281653.04	255021.85	26631.19	0.09	0.91

Table 7.2 : RAW data used to calculate the mean biofilm grown for Vector .
V1: No intervention, V2: Chlorhexidine, V3: Fluoride.

7.6 Appendix E: Biofilm data (Aarhus)

	Sample	Total bacteria in sample / mm ²	Total live in sample / mm ²	Total dead in sample / mm ²	DEAD Proportion	LIVE Proportion
22	A1	133343.17	129540.99	3802.18	0.03	0.97
23	A1	112706.42	107430.70	5275.72	0.05	0.95
24	A1	100063.65	95508.48	4555.17	0.05	0.95
25	A1	229995.70	225625.78	4369.92	0.02	0.98
26	A1	223361.54	215342.06	8019.48	0.04	0.96
27	A1	165079.80	157501.88	7577.92	0.05	0.95
28	A1	151846.94	147139.68	4707.26	0.03	0.97
29	A2	273154.87	133971.27	139183.61	0.51	0.49
30	A2	191479.62	94497.72	96981.89	0.51	0.49
31	A2	360439.94	208903.63	151536.31	0.42	0.58
32	A2	308804.16	222584.04	86220.12	0.28	0.72
33	A2	344057.30	201186.05	142871.25	0.42	0.58
34	A2	219471.54	140768.50	78703.05	0.36	0.64
35	A2	290537.86	145804.41	144733.45	0.50	0.50
36	A3	123113.80	101711.92	21401.88	0.17	0.83
37	A3	287741.60	252113.99	35627.62	0.12	0.88
38	A3	194874.05	162071.80	32802.25	0.17	0.83
39	A3	133527.74	103471.68	30056.06	0.23	0.77
40	A3	313400.66	259477.91	53922.75	0.17	0.83
41	A3	146777.03	128719.29	18057.74	0.12	0.88
42	A3	11366.62	10659.25	707.38	0.06	0.94

Table 7.3 : RAW data used to calculate the mean biofilm grown for Aarhus.
A1: No intervention, A2: Chlorhexidine, A3: Fluoride.

7.7 Appendix F: Biofilm data (TOMAS)

	Sample	Total bacteria in sample / mm ²	Total live in sample / mm ²	Total dead in sample / mm ²	DEAD Proportion	LIVE Proportion
43	T1	85740.37	84600.36	1140.00	0.01	0.99
44	T1	83257.90	80859.59	2398.31	0.03	0.97
45	T1	73947.71	71306.98	2640.73	0.04	0.96
46	T1	64337.20	62670.70	1666.50	0.03	0.97
47	T1	57085.09	55098.13	1986.96	0.03	0.97
48	T1	61227.77	59292.20	1935.57	0.03	0.97
49	T1	81482.44	80268.23	1214.21	0.01	0.99
50	T2	109510.45	60895.41	48615.04	0.44	0.56
51	T2	96357.68	51943.23	44414.44	0.46	0.54
52	T2	189380.46	109057.80	80322.66	0.42	0.58
53	T2	59022.79	39121.16	19901.63	0.34	0.66
54	T2	139591.47	93060.98	46530.49	0.33	0.67
55	T2	130312.23	99889.14	30423.09	0.23	0.77
56	T2	64744.66	41239.72	23504.94	0.36	0.64
57	T3	110988.04	82997.44	27990.60	0.25	0.75
58	T3	76656.42	68201.16	8455.27	0.11	0.89
59	T3	87440.71	76500.78	10939.93	0.13	0.87
60	T3	64002.78	55530.14	8472.64	0.13	0.87
61	T3	116880.27	108926.22	7954.04	0.07	0.93
62	T3	71029.83	60703.35	10326.47	0.15	0.85
63	T3	88133.85	74060.12	14073.73	0.16	0.84

Table 7.4 : RAW data used to calculate the mean biofilm grown for TOMAS.

T1: No intervention, T2: Chlorhexidine, T3: Fluoride.

7.8 Appendix G: Biofilm data (Leone)

	Sample	Total bacteria in sample / mm ²	Total live in sample / mm ²	Total dead in sample / mm ²	DEAD Proportion	LIVE Proportion
64	L1	71030.09	69339.24	1690.85	0.02	0.98
65	L1	100804.50	98043.56	2760.94	0.03	0.97
66	L1	63210.00	61275.00	1935.00	0.03	0.97
67	L1	123788.49	121907.28	1881.21	0.02	0.98
68	L1	107100.00	103285.71	3814.29	0.04	0.96
69	L1	120454.99	116491.62	3963.37	0.03	0.97
70	L1	75739.88	73633.89	2105.99	0.03	0.97
71	L2	136160.37	76814.55	59345.82	0.44	0.56
72	L2	175490.48	115688.45	59802.03	0.34	0.66
73	L2	168476.24	123835.08	44641.16	0.26	0.74
74	L2	148626.72	83847.41	64779.31	0.44	0.56
75	L2	126377.97	55066.78	71311.19	0.56	0.44
76	L2	78958.67	51823.28	27135.39	0.34	0.66
77	L2	96716.41	55920.51	40795.90	0.42	0.58
78	L3	80206.48	68545.89	11660.60	0.15	0.85
79	L3	139047.67	123654.24	15393.43	0.11	0.89
80	L3	144911.04	119492.42	25418.62	0.18	0.82
81	L3	140924.86	123475.82	17449.05	0.12	0.88
82	L3	78685.17	70270.03	8415.14	0.11	0.89
83	L3	87762.38	77069.31	10693.07	0.12	0.88
84	L3	109397.47	96068.35	13329.11	0.12	0.88

Table 7.5 : RAW data used to calculate the mean biofilm grown for Leone.

L1: No intervention, L2: Chlorhexidine, L3: Fluoride.

Chapter 8

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