

“Like a piece of fine jewelry or art”

Yet so much more affordable! NobelProcera® Hybrid provides a cost-effective restoration for the edentulous patient.

Michael Stuart of Nobel Biocare's headquarters in Switzerland recently interviewed Certified Dental Technician, Greg Sederlin, President of Cal Ceram Dental Lab and Vice President, Implants and Removables, at daVinci Dental Studios. They discussed how ease-of-use meets restorative flexibility in the new NobelProcera® Hybrid.

The new NobelProcera® Hybrid edentulous restoration saves time and money by relying on a full CAD workflow with its inherent design flexibility. The Hybrid provides a safe, affordable, easy-to-explain treatment choice, and it is perfectly suited for the All-on-4® treatment concept, which enables the restoration of a fully edentulous jaw on just four implants.

Greg Sederlin, an experienced NobelProcera® Hybrid user, answers a few of our questions about this remarkable product here:

What were your first impressions of the NobelProcera Hybrid bar?

Greg Sederlin: Simply put, the NobelProcera® Hybrid bar is beautiful; it is like a piece of fine jewelry or modern art, and at first glance, the finish is stunning.

At a closer look—and touch—you can see and feel the refinement. The weight is surprising, to say the least, and the fit is superb.

As a technician with 35 years of experience, I work very diligently to achieve superior results, and all I can say is that my best results come close, but fall short of what NobelProcera® computer aided manufacturing can routinely achieve.

What do you see as the main benefits of the NobelProcera® Hybrid bar, for clinicians and for patients?

Sederlin: There are benefits for everyone involved, I think. As long as proper protocols are followed by the doctor, it is relatively easy to reproduce good fit from case to case with this product.

Using titanium in prosthetics this way, we can cut down weight as well as a substantial amount of cost from the components, labor and gold that would typically be used in the fabrication of frameworks.

Lower costs for the Hybrid bar should translate into lower costs for each patient, which could potentially result in more patients being treated—and that is something that would benefit everyone involved in the process.

What is it like working with the NobelProcera Hybrid? How is the CAD/CAM workflow? How do the fingers and retention elements help when it comes to working on the acrylic and denture teeth?

Sederlin: The workflow comprises relatively simple impressions, bite registrations, verifications, and esthetic try-ins, which are made just as they would be in the traditional workflow.

Instead of the cumbersome process of designing a case inside of a matrix with wax or acrylic, however, with the new NobelProcera® Hybrid you design it virtually on the computer in 3D.

This allows you to look at *all* the aspects of the prosthesis that you are creating. You can even assess the intaglio surface through the virtual matrix. This gives you control of the amount of cutback you need for the restorative material that has been



A safe, affordable and understandable treatment choice: This practical titanium restoration saves time and money by relying on a full CAD workflow that is also characterized by powerful design flexibility.

chosen for the finish. Given the ability to create retention elements, you can support the individual teeth for a far stronger long-term prosthesis.

Do you see that the Hybrid can play a role in helping convert denture wearers to a fixed implant restoration?

Sederlin: Given a reasonable alternative, I'm convinced that most denture wearers would opt for a “fixed” implant restoration with all its inherent advantages.

Look at the potential disadvantages of removable solutions: Tender areas from pinched nerves, food entrapment under the traditional prosthesis and—with our aging population—even the loss of a denture in a hospital or convalescent facility is a commonly reported mishap these days. And these are just a few of the reasons for converting a patient to this type of restoration.

With the All-on-4® treatment concept, costs can be greatly reduced vis-à-vis the traditional methods we

have used in the past, therefore making the Hybrid an affordable treatment option for a much broader group of patients. <

→ More to explore

Learn more about how the Hybrid can help you to build your business while better serving the patient at nobelbiocare.com/hybrid, or contact your local NobelProcera sales representative at one of the numbers listed on the back page.

The Key to Edentulous Conversion

Dr. Andrew Bock brings a better life within the reach of his denture-wearing patients.

A great deal of the author's dental practice involves converting denture-wearing patients to fixed restorations. In the following article, he explains how this has helped him grow his business while conscientiously serving his patients at the same time.

By Dr. Andrew Bock

I didn't intend to set out as a “specialist” in implant bars, but I have become one nevertheless.

As a prosthodontist who opened a scratch-start practice after nearly three years elsewhere as an associate, I realized that the biggest void in my geographic area was someone who focused on removable prosthodontics.

Many dentists don't see the potential in this arena, because they are frustrated with the experience of dealing with unhappy denture wearers.

I chose to look at this as an opportunity, where I could educate my denture patients and inform them about the options provided by dental implants.

Frequently, their general dentists simply haven't had time to sit down and talk about these options, so patients are often hearing this information for the first time from me.

Natural next step

Implant bars represent a natural progression from the conventional denture to an implant-based solution, either fixed or removable.

The All-On-4® treatment concept has provided a huge opportunity for

us to provide many of our edentulous or soon-to-be-edentulous patients with an implant based solution, and every one of these cases requires a bar for final restoration.

I also have been able to help a number of patients with Procera bars in cases where they have multiple, older implants (frequently different kinds in the same arch), or are stuck with an esthetically compromised situation in which a bar is needed for draw, but insufficient space means that a removable overdenture is indicated to allow the flange to optimize appearances.

After more than three years in this market, people have now begun to recognize the technical skill and knowledge I possess on these types of cases. Consequently, we are seeing more and more of them in my practice today.

Advantages abound

I see a number of advantages to working with Procera implant bars.

First is the fact that they have freed the design software for use by technicians, meaning that I can work with my local laboratory who is well-versed in implant bar design directly.

Second is the accuracy. If I deliver an accurate cast for scanning, I know—without a doubt—that my bar will fit perfectly.

Third is the removal of the tedious procedures with cast bars and their resulting deficiencies (i.e. no more cutting/soldering/breaking of welded joints, porosity, etc.).

Fourth is the compatibility with virtually any implant system out there. I have been told that if an analog exists for the implant, a Procera bar can be milled to fit it. I have personally re-

Why NobelProcera® CAD/CAM Bars?

For the sake of quality, function, esthetics and good business, too

Certified Dental Technician Thomas Wade is the owner of New Horizons Dental Laboratory on the outskirts of Denver, Colorado, USA. He says that the quality and efficiency gains that result from outsourcing the production of bars to NobelProcera is rewarding for everyone involved.

By Michael Stuart

Thomas Wade has chosen NobelProcera technology as his exclusive provider of CAD/CAM milled titanium bars for two main reasons.

“First of all,” says Wade, “The NobelProcera® Software allows us to access and provide a wide variety of solutions entailing many different types and styles of bars, customization features, and attachments—all in order to better address the patient's individual needs.”

Secondly, he says that this technology puts design control in the proper hands. “A bar is best designed by a skilled technician with experience in intra-oral bio-mechanics,” he states simply, and then goes on to make his point.

“Since the bar is only one of several components in a successful restoration, the bar designer must fully understand how the bar will support other components, such as denture teeth and PMMA base acrylic, in order to provide the patient with long-lasting function and esthetics.”

Wade cites other reasons for using NobelProcera CAD/CAM bars as well. Broad and comprehensive technical support is high on his list, as are the regular software design technology upgrades that keep him competitive as he works at the technological cutting edge.

“Meticulous quality control by NobelProcera, especially as it relates to passivity of fit and finish,” Wade adds, “all but eliminates re-makes,” saving time, effort and money.

Clear advantages

To convince clients to adopt this technology, Wade uses photographs of the bars themselves and the finished cases both in his brochure and on his website.

“In the early days, I actually took the first few bars I did around to key clients to show them the accuracy and beauty of these bars first hand,” he explains. “Today, I not only show

the bars, but also use screenshots taken from the design, including the all-important 2D cross-section to help highlight the purposeful and deliberate choices I've made in the design process.”

Wade believes that the combination of design screenshots and final product photos create a powerful statement about the quality of the engineering and biomechanics.

“Demonstrated quality serves as a strong marketing tool,” he says. “Also, at a time when most bar cases have been over-simplified to a ‘one size fits all’ treatment plan of full wrap design, I have made my clients aware that we can offer a multitude of design styles to better, more effectively treat a patient's specific intra-oral needs.”

NobelClinician facilitates teamwork

Especially in cases involving edentulous or nearly edentulous arches, clinicians who use NobelClinician® treatment planning software become natural collaborators for a lab like New Horizons.

“Digital planning—which identifies any obstacles, defines the parameters for any necessary bone aug-



Thomas Wade make a convincing argument that “A bar is best designed by a skilled technician with experience in intra-oral bio-mechanics.”

mentation or reduction, and indicates strategic placement of the implants—is the key to overall prosthetic success,” Wade asserts.

“What the implant surgeon does, or does not do on the day of surgery, sets the tone for the overall success of the case moving forward; but make no mistake, even though implant placement is a surgical procedure, it is prosthetically driven.”

According to Thomas Wade, NobelClinician Software makes it possible to “bridge the gap” between the surgeon and the restorative team

and encourages collaboration and communication between the two.

“Success used to be measured simply by the percentage of surviving, well-osseointegrated implants. Today, success needs to be redefined to take good restorative planning and strategic implant placement into account. To serve the patient well, we want to be able to fabricate a prosthesis that will work well, look good and prove durable. Planning with NobelClinician is the best option available to achieve this.”

According to Wade, both the process and end result are always superior—with improved predictability, repeatability, enjoyment, and profitability—when working with doctors who use NobelClinician. “It also prevents stress and headache, and saves us all time!” he says.

Having NobelClinician Software running at his lab has become a major boon to his business, by vastly increasing his stature as a valued team member, Wade says.

“I do not plan cases for the clinicians, but I do review a wide variety of restorative criteria, and verify that the plan will facilitate the fabrication of a highly successful prosthesis.”

Even when the team is “geographically challenged,” as Wade puts it, “The ability to share a plan between the three corners of the ‘golden triangle’ (i.e. the surgeon, the restorative dentist, and the laboratory), offers unprecedented opportunities for success.”

Using NobelClinician on the front end, and NobelProcera bar technology for the final restoration on the back end, makes for a powerful and unrivaled combination.

Thomas Wade sums things up this way: “In short, it's a beautiful thing!” <

→ More to explore

Learn more about how the NobelProcera can help you to build your business while better serving the patient at nobelbiocare.com/xxxxx, or contact your local NobelProcera sales representative at one of the numbers listed on the back page.

For the benefit of the patient

Patient benefits, when switching to a bar, are huge! One of my most-used lines is, “You will go back to eating what you *want* to eat, not what you *can* eat.”

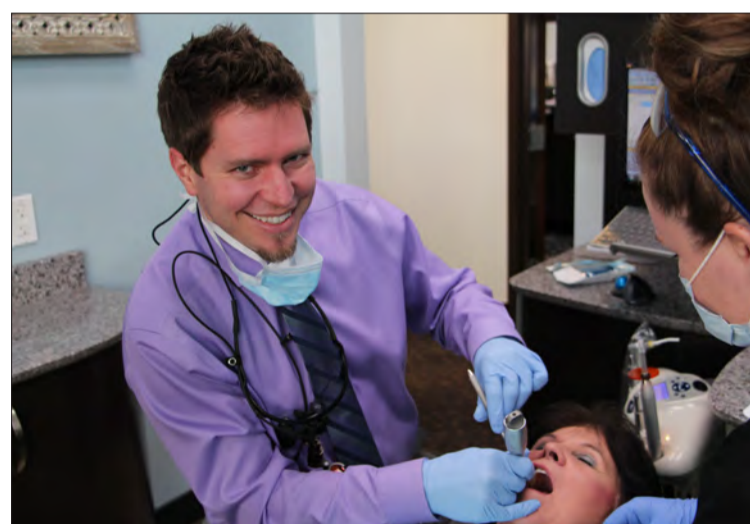
Patients often have forgotten what it's like to eat whatever they want, without being constantly aware, at best—or self-conscious, at worst—of their denture. Many of my patients say, “This is the closest thing I've had to real teeth in a long time!”

Sore spots from denture movement are virtually eliminated. Resorption of jawbone is greatly reduced, meaning fewer relines of dentures and fewer changes in the patient's appearance (i.e. no more “bitter beer face” when their jaws resorb and they lose vertical dimension).

Self-confidence is greatly increased, and patients are much quicker to smile and laugh without hesitation.

Often overlooked

Facial appearance is greatly improved when the patient's facial muscles are freed from the burden of having to stabilize dentures; I think



Dr. Andrew Bock: “Patient benefits when switching to a bar are huge! One of my most-used lines is, “You will go back to eating what you *want* to eat, not what you *can* eat.”

> stored implants that are more than 30-years-old with NobelProcera bars (including a case that had six such implants, plus three newer implants produced by two different manufacturers), which definitely demonstrates the technique's versatility.

I have done everything from a two-unit NobelProcera® bar to quadrant bars to full-arch bars, once again demonstrating the bars' versatility.

What's more, the design possibilities are virtually endless, making innovative treatment options possible.

One final advantage to this technology also ought to be mentioned: A solid warranty is offered with every bar, and the fact that the warranty is backed up by a company of Nobel Biocare's stature and stability provides me and my patients with an extra measure of confidence.