



Profile

Working in implantology

Pauline Smith, a dental implant nurse working in West Yorkshire, shares her views on working in implantology



How did you get involved in implantology?

I started working in implantology in 1996 at a private practice in Doncaster. The dentist sent me on a course to learn about the implantology system we were using at the time. I picked up some helpful tips on the course, which I still use from time to time now.

Implantology has always interested me. As such, I was really excited at the thought of nursing for patients who were having implant surgery.

Since I started nursing for implants back in 1996, I have used various implant systems as they are always updating techniques.

What does your current role entail?

The main role that I carry out is scrub nurse. I assist Dr Sharif Khan when carrying out all different implant procedures—from single implant placement to all-on-4 cases. I make sure that the equipment and materials are ready for each patient and are all sterile; I wear a sterile gown and gloves, and we work in a sterile environment. I also make sure that the patient is comfortable and answer any questions they may have prior to treatment. I telephone the patient one day after treatment to make sure the patient is comfortable and offer any advice, if they need it.

What is the best and worst part of your job?

The best bit of my job is being part of a fantastic team and working with an experienced and amazing dentist. I am able to help patients who have difficulty tolerating dentures by carrying out all-on-4 dental implants.

I really enjoy implant nursing and am fortunate to work at a practice that carries out all aspects of

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implantology. There is no part of my role that I don't enjoy.

What are some of the main challenges as an implant dental nurse?

When training other members of the team to assist, it is always a challenge stressing to them how important it is that things are done correctly and that the patient is comfortable throughout the procedure.

If a dental nurse wants to become a 'dental implant nurse', how should he/she go about it?

Gain as much knowledge and experience by working in an implant practice and shadowing a dental implant nurse. There are courses that you can attend but from experience I think you are better gaining some knowledge from shadowing so you can see first hand what procedures are carried out. DN

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