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**Surgeons shown digital dentistry innovation**

Can you have the best of both worlds in the digital dental world? That was the question posed at a recent meeting attended by Renishaw at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, UK.

Delegates heard how additive manufacturing process in implant dentistry are advancing operational performance through improved product quality, research capability, medical procedures and patient outcomes.

Ed Littlewood, marketing manager at Renishaw’s Dental Products Division, showed delegates how Renishaw was transforming the digital relationship between dentist and labs through its total production and CAD CAM services.

Delegates saw the benefits of metal 3D printing over milling and casting in terms of waste material, production quality, consistency and accuracy, and heard how a reference dental lab that had replaced full manual casting with laser-melted frameworks were winning 100% satisfaction reports from their dentist customers.

They also heard that while subtractive methods like milling typically created more costs with increasing complexity, Renishaw had established a hybridised approach for the implantology market giving the ‘best of both worlds’.

Mr Littlewood explained that it was possible to create the net shape of a product through 3D printing but then mill the interface to deliver a high accuracy fit to the implant, exploiting the advantages of each process. He added “With our breakthrough LaserAbutmentsTM this approach is enabling Renishaw to produce screw-retained crowns quickly and cost-efficiently”.

The same spirit of innovation was being channelled into 3D printing for craniomaxillofacial surgery, to help develop an end-to-end digital workflow for implant design and manufacture, for better surgical outcomes, quicker timescales and NHS cost savings.

**-ENDS-**