### **REVIEW ARTICLE**

## Etiology, occurrence, and consequences of implant loss

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## 1 | INTRODUCTION

The use of dental implants as part of the rehabilitation of partially and fully edentulous patients constitutes a safe, accepted, and commonly applied treatment.<sup>1,2</sup> It was estimated that > 12 million implants are placed annually across the globe.<sup>3</sup> In Sweden, a national registry on dental status and treatment (SKaPa) was initiated in 2008. This registry includes > 4 million adults attending public dental healthcare settings and indicated that the proportion of patients with  $\ge$  1 dental implants increased from 1.7% to 2.8% from 2009/2010 to 2015/2016.<sup>4</sup>

The success of dental restorative therapy supported by implants has traditionally been evaluated by the assessment of implant survival, indirectly reflecting implant loss. In fact, implant survival remains the dominant outcome measure in studies and has commonly been considered sufficient in the evaluation of implant therapy and has been reported at the implant level alone. Outcomes at the implant level, however, may be difficult to communicate in the clinical setting, where, in the eyes of the patient, the risk of experiencing any implant loss is probably of greater concern compared with the risk of losing one of multiple implants. Considering only the implant as the unit of analysis and disregarding clustering of data within patients may lead to an underestimation of complication rates<sup>5,6</sup> and may be of significance for meaningful data analysis.<sup>7,8</sup> Therefore, to improve understanding in the field, the 8th European Workshop on Periodontology encouraged future research on implant therapy to not only consider outcomes at implant as well as patient levels, but to also include additional outcome measures, such as the occurrence of biologic/technical complications and patient-reported outcome measures.<sup>9</sup> It was argued that the mere presence or absence of a dental implant per se may not have any effect on oral health-related quality of life.

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Although implant loss as an outcome measure by itself is clearly not sufficient to properly evaluate implant dentistry as a therapy, it is quite obvious that survival of implants is an important parameter relevant to both the patient and the clinician. In terms of research, the assessment of implant loss has a distinct advantage over other outcome measures in that its outcome (loss or no loss) is definitive. The criteria used to define implant success or case definitions of peri-implantitis, on the other hand, vary considerably between studies.<sup>7,10</sup> Hence, interpretation of such data is more demanding and complex, while implant loss as an outcome measure is easily assessed and communicated.

# 2 | DEFINITIONS OF EARLY AND LATE IMPLANT LOSS

Implant loss may occur at different time points during therapy or follow-up. The initial process of soft and hard tissue integration following implant installation typically requires several weeks.<sup>11-14</sup> From the biologic point of view, early implant loss constitutes a failure in achieving integration, while late implant loss may be described as a failure in maintaining osseointegration.

Traditionally, implants lost or removed prior to loading have been categorized as early losses.<sup>15,16</sup> This assessment was applied within established treatment protocols, which included healing periods of 3-6 months before restorations were to be seated.<sup>17-19</sup> Hence, the majority of studies evaluating the occurrence of early implant loss have considered the period between implant installation and abutment connection/prosthetic loading to be of interest (Table 1). Only a few studies have included periods extending beyond the time point of delivery of the prosthetic restoration in their observations, mostly based on practical considerations.<sup>20-27</sup>

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Study	Study design and definition of early implant loss	Sampling and sample size	Occurrence of early implant loss	Clinical features of early implant loss	Risk indicators for early implant loss	Consequences of early implant loss
Alsaadi et al <sup>68</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – abutment connection	Convenience 2004 subjects 6946 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 8.9% Implant level 3.6%	Fibrotic encapsulation	Osteoporosis Crohn's disease Smoking Region Implant diameter	Not reported
Antoun et al <sup>25</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – 1 y	Convenience 1017 subjects 3082 implants	Patient level 4.0% 1.6% 1.6%	Not reported	Smoking Clinical experience Augmentation Immediate implant installation	Not reported
Baqain et al <sup>74</sup>	Prospective Insertion – abutment connection	Convenience 169 subjects 399 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 8.3% <u>Implant level</u> 3.8%	Not reported	Width of keratinized mucosa Suture material	Not reported
Borba et al <sup>92</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 202 subjects 774 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 7.4% Implant level 2.8%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Bornstein et al <sup>67</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – abutment connection	Convenience 1206 subjects 1817 implants	Patient level 0.8% Implant level 0.7%	Infection: 3 implants Implant mobility but no signs of infection: 10 implants	Smoking (tendency)	Not reported
Brocard et al <sup>100</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 440 subjects 1022 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 1.3%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Brügger et al <sup>71</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 1568 subjects 2279 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 0.7% <u>Implant level</u> 0.6%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
De Bruyn & Collaert <sup>77</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 117 subjects 452 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 6.8% <u>Implant level</u> 2.4%	Implant mobility	Smoking	Not reported
Buser et al <sup>65</sup>	Prospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 1003 subjects 2359 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 0.6%	Recurrent infection: 5 implants Implant mobility: 8 implants	Not reported	Not reported

TABLE 1 Studies describing early implant loss

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Study	Study design and definition of early implant loss	Sampling and sample size	Occurrence of early implant loss	Clinical features of early implant loss	Risk indicators for early implant loss	Consequences of early implant loss
Cannizzaro et al <sup>32</sup>	Prospective Insertion – 6 mo	Convenience 80 subjects 160 implants	Patient level 2.5% Implant level 1.3%	Implant mobility	Not reported	Lost implants replaced, prostheses was remade
Carlsson et al <sup>45</sup>	Prospective Insertion - abutment connection	Convenience 44 subjects 331 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 1.3%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Cavalcanti et al <sup>79</sup>	Retrospective Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Convenience 1727 subjects 6720 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 3.0%	Not reported	Center effect	Not reported
Cecchinato et al <sup>16</sup>	Randomized controlled trial Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 84 subjects 324 implants	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 2.2%	Reduced stability at installation for 5 out of 7 implants	Not reported	4 out of 7 implants: new implant placement
Chrcanovic et al <sup>42</sup>	Retrospective Insertion - abutment connection	Convenience 2670 subjects 10 096 implants	Patient level 5.2% Implant level 1.7%	Not reported	Smoking Antidepressants	Not reported
Cochran et al <sup>20</sup>	Prospective Insertion – 1 y	Convenience 135 subjects 439 implants	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 0.9%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Cochran et al <sup>73</sup>	Prospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 200 subjects 626 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 0.5% <u>Implant level</u> 0.2%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Daubert et al <sup>21</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – 1 y	Convenience 96 subjects 225 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 5.8%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Davarpanah et al <sup>93</sup>	Prospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 528 subjects 1583 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 3.0%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

TABLE 1 (Continued)

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	Consequences of early implant loss	Not reported	76 out of 121 patients: new implant placement 21 out of 121 patients: treatment plan adjusted 2 out of 121 patients: therapy discontinued 22 out of 121 patients: therapy completed without new implant placement or adjustments to the treatment plan	Not reported	Not reported	No early implant loss	Not reported
	Risk indicators for early implant loss	Smoking Implant length Jaw	Periodontitis Smoking Implant length Implant brand	Immediate implant installation	Not reported	No early implant loss	Not reported
	Clinical features of early implant loss	Not reported	Not reported	Infection: 7 implants Pain: 1 implant Asymptomatic: 13 implants	Not reported	No early implant loss	Not reported
	Occurrence of early implant loss	Patient level 10.8% (based on subsample) Implant level 4.2%	Patient level 4.4% 1.4%	Patient level 3.4% Implant level 2.1%	Patient level 1.1% Implant level 0.5%	Patient level 0% Implant level 0%	Patient level Not reported Implant level 1.3%
	Sampling and sample size	Convenience 464 subjects 1852 implants	Random selection 2765 subjects 11 311 implants	Convenience/10 private dental clinics 506 subjects 972 implants	Convenience 2060 subjects 4591 implants	Convenience 76 subjects 380 implants	Convenience 259 subjects 1230 implants
ued)	Study design and definition of early implant loss	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Randomized controlled trial Insertion - abutment connection	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion – 1 y	Retrospective Insertion – 1 y
TABLE 1 (Continued)	Study	DeLuca et al <sup>75</sup>	Derks et al <sup>5</sup>	Esposito et al <sup>58</sup>	French et al <sup>72</sup>	Friberg & Jemt <sup>22</sup>	Friberg & Jemt <sup>23</sup>

<sup>16</sup> WILEY- Periodontology 2000

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Consequences of early	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Risk indicators for early	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Age Gender Location Implant length	Jaw Implant surface	Implant site Number of implants Clinician	Not reported	Not reported
Clinical features of early	Inflammation: 40 implants Failure of osseointegration: 23 implants Premature loading: 11 implants Host response: 7 implants Multiple: 2 implants Unknown: 3 implants	Lack of osseointegration: 18 implants	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Occurrence of early	Patient level Not reported Implant level 3.1%	Patient level Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 0.7%	Patient level Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 2.9%	Patient level 1.0% Implant level 0.6%	Patient level 7.0% Implant level 2.0%	Patient level 2.7% Implant level 1.2%	Patient level 1.9% Implant level 0.7%	Patient level 15.0% Implant level
Sampling and	Z796 implants	Convenience 1377 subjects 2684 implants	Convenience 136 subjects 273 implants	Random selection/2 hospitals 18 199 subjects 30 959 implants	Convenience 8528 subjects 39 077 implants	Convenience 2848 subjects 9582 implants	Convenience 103 subjects 287 implants	Convenience 240 subjects 766 implants
Study design and definition of	Retrospective Insertion - not specified	Retrospective Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion – 1 y	Retrospective Insertion - 1 y	Retrospective Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Randomized controlled trial Insertion – abutment connection
Chirdly	Han et al <sup>64</sup>	He et al <sup>84</sup>	Huynh-Ba et al <sup>101</sup>	Lin et al <sup>43</sup>	Jemt et al <sup>24</sup>	Jemt <sup>27</sup> Subsample from Jemt et al <sup>24</sup>	Jungner et al <sup>90</sup>	Karaky et al <sup>57</sup>

TABLE 1 (Continued)

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	Consequences of early implant loss	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	1 patient: new implant placement	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
	Risk indicators for early implant loss	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Smoking	Age Smoking Bone type Primary implant stability	Implant length Region	Gender Periodontal disease Implant length Bone quality Surgical technique	Not reported
	Clinical features of early implant loss	Not reported	Loss of nerve sensibility: 1 implant Infection: 1 implant	Not reported	Prosthesis fracture: 1 implant	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
	Occurrence of early implant loss	<u>Patient level</u> 9.2% <u>Implant level</u> 3.0%	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 0.4%	Patient level Not reported Implant level 1.9%	<u>Patient level</u> 0.9% <u>Implant level</u> 0.3%	<u>Patient level</u> 2.4% <u>Implant level</u> 1.5%	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 5.1%	Patient level Not reported Implant level 3.8%	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 5.8%	<u>Patient level</u> 13.9% <u>Implant level</u> 3.0%
	Sampling and sample size	Convenience 109 subjects 372 implants	Convenience 191 subjects 468 implants	Convenience 717 subjects 2259 implants	Convenience 103 subjects 380 implants	Convenience 296 subjects 721 implants	Convenience 316 subjects 1084 implants	Convenience 650 subjects 1649 implants	Convenience 142 subjects 276 implants	Convenience 36 subjects 199 implants
ued)	Study design and definition of early implant loss	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Prospective Insertion – 6 mo	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Retrospective Insertion - abutment connection	Retrospective Insertion – abutment connection	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Prospective Insertion - abutment connection
TABLE 1 (Continued)	Study	Koldsland et al <sup>15</sup>	Lambrecht et al <sup>102</sup>	Levin et al <sup>70</sup>	Malò et al <sup>33</sup>	Noda et al <sup>52</sup>	Noguerol et al <sup>69</sup>	Olate et al <sup>80</sup>	Olmedo-Gaya et al <sup>óó</sup>	Rasmusson et al <sup>47</sup>

18 WILEV- Periodontology 2000

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Study	Study design and definition of early implant loss	Sampling and sample size	Occurrence of early implant loss	Clinical features of early implant loss	Risk indicators for early implant loss	Consequences of early implant loss
Roccuzzo et al <sup>49</sup>	Prospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 101 subjects 246 implants	Patient level 0% Implant level 0%	No early implant loss	No early implant loss	No early implant loss
Roccuzzo et al <sup>48</sup>	Prospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 123 subjects 252 implants	Patient level 0% Implant level 0%	No early implant loss	No early implant loss	No early implant loss
Roos-Jansåker et al <sup>51</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 218 subjects 1057 implants	Patient level 6.9% Implant level 2.7%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Rosenberg et al <sup>59</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – prosthetic restoration	Convenience 334 subjects 1511 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 5.8%	Not reported	Implant surface Region	Not reported
van Steenberghe et al <sup>78</sup>	Prospective Insertion - abutment connection	Convenience 399 subjects 1263 implants	Patient level 5.3% Implant level 2.2%	Not reported	Bone quality Smoking Radiotherapy Chemotherapy Claustrophobia	Not reported
Urban et al <sup>61</sup>	Prospective Insertion – abutment connection	Convenience 92 subjects 92 implants	Patient level 16.3% Implant level 16.3%	Not reported	Smoking Dimensions of defect postextraction	Not reported
Vervaeke et al <sup>26</sup>	Retrospective Insertion – 6 mo	Convenience 376 subjects 1320 implants	Patient level 2.9% Implant level 0.8%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Wagenberg & Froum <sup>86</sup>	Retrospective Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Convenience 891 subjects 1925 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 3.7%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Wennström et al <sup>82</sup>	Randomized controlled trial Insertion - prosthetic restoration	Convenience 51 subjects 149 implants	Patient level 2.0% Implant level 0.7%	Lack of osseointegration: 1 implant	None	1 patient: no change in treatment plan

TABLE 1 (Continued)

20

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In recent years, immediate or early loading of implants following installation has been proposed and scientifically evaluated.<sup>28-31</sup> Studies on such treatment protocols require a fixed time frame for evaluation of early implant loss rather than clinical landmarks. Typically, the first 6 months after implant installation and simultaneous loading have been considered.<sup>32,33</sup>

By contrast, loss of implants occurring after the connection of abutments and/or restorations has, in the majority of reports, been termed late implant loss.<sup>5,34</sup> Studies using specified time points rather than clinical landmarks considered the time period of 6 or 12 months after prosthetic loading to be of interest for the assessment of late implant loss (Table 2).

It should be realized that the clinical distinction between early and late implant loss does not necessarily reflect the underlying biologic process, as no routine evaluation of the degree of osseointegration is possible. Hence, misclassification may be possible.

TABLE	2	Studies	describing	late	implant	loss
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Study	Study design and function time	Sampling and sample size	Occurrence of late implant loss	Etiology of late implant loss	Risk indicators for late implant loss	Consequences of late implant loss
Alsaadi et al <sup>34</sup>	Retrospective 2 y	Convenience 412 subjects 1514 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 16.0% <u>Implant level</u> 6.7%	Not reported	Radiotherapy Implant location	Not reported
Borba et al <sup>92</sup>	Retrospective mean: 8.4 y	Convenience 202 subjects 774 implants	Patient level 1.5% Implant level 0.38%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Buser et al <sup>65</sup>	Prospective 5 y	Convenience 269 subjects 536 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 1.4%	Ongoing infection: 2 implants Implant mobility: 3 implants Implant fracture: 1 implant Progressive bone loss: 1 implant	Not reported	Not reported
Cannizzaro et al <sup>32</sup>	Prospective 5 y	Convenience 80 subjects 160 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 0% <u>Implant level</u> 0%	No late implant loss	No late implant loss	No late implant loss
Carlsson et al <sup>45</sup>	Prospective 15 y: mandibular implants 10.5 y: maxillary implants	Convenience 44 subjects 331 implants	Patient level 2.3% Implant level 0.4%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Chrcanovic et al <sup>94</sup>	Retrospective mean: 7.9 y	Convenience 999 subjects 3559 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 3.7%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Chrcanovic et al <sup>87</sup> Subsample from Chrcanovic et al <sup>94</sup>	Retrospective 20-36 y	Convenience 227 subjects 1045 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 10.7%	Implant fracture: 15 implants Loss of integration: 97 implants	Not reported	Not reported
Cochran et al <sup>73</sup>	Prospective 5 y	Convenience 174 subjects 542 implants	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 0.6%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Daubert et al <sup>21</sup>	Retrospective mean: 10.9 y	Convenience 96 subjects 225 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 2.7%	Implant fracture: 1 implant Peri-implantitis: 5 implants	Not reported	Not reported

## TABLE 2 (Continued)

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Study design and function time	Sampling and sample size	Occurrence of late implant loss	Etiology of late implant loss	Risk indicators for late implant loss	Consequences of late implant loss
Prospective 1-5 y	Convenience 511 subjects 1535 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 0.5%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Retrospective mean: 5.0 y	Convenience 464 subjects 1852 implants	Patient level 7.5% (based on subsample) Implant level 3.5%	Not reported	Smoking Implant length Jaw	Not reported
Retrospective mean: 8.9 y	Random 596 subjects 2367 implants	Patient level 4.2% Implant level 2.0%	Not reported	Implant brand	New implant placement: 6 patients New supra- construction: 8 patients Modified supra- construction: 4 patients Supra-construction lost and not replaced: 5 patients No impact on supra- construction: 8 patients
Prospective 20 y	Convenience 51 subjects 148 implants	Patient level 19.6% Implant level 12.2%	Implant fracture: 17 implants Disintegration: 1 implant	Not reported	Not reported
Retrospective 1-24 y	Convenience 177 subjects 828 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 13.6% <u>Implant level</u> 8.3%	Implants lost due to peri-implantitis	History of periodontitis (protective)	Not reported
Prospective 20 y	Convenience 30 subjects 179 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 3.3% <u>Implant level</u> 0.6%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Retrospective 1-11 y	Convenience 2060 subjects 4591 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 0.4% <u>Implant level</u> 0.2%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Retrospective 5 y	Convenience 259 subjects 1230 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 2.0%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Retrospective 1-19 y	Convenience 879 subjects 2796 implants	Patient level Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 1.0%	Overloading: 34 implants Implant fracture: 11 implants Peri-implantitis: 8 implants Host response: 4 implants Inflammation: 1 implant Unknown: 6 implants	Not reported	Not reported
	Study design and     function time     Prospective     1-5 y     Retrospective     Retrospective     Prospective     Prospective     Prospective     Prospective     Prospective     Prospective     Prospective     Prospective     Setrospective     Prospective     Setrospective     Prospective     Setrospective     Setrospective <td>Study design and function timeSampling and sample sizeProspective 1-5 yConvenience 513 siplantsRetrospective mean: 5.0 yConvenience 464 subjects 1852 implantsRetrospective mean: 8.9 yRandom 596 subjects 2367 implantsProspective 20 yConvenience 51 subjects 148 implantsProspective 20 yConvenience 51 subjects 2367 implantsRetrospective 20 yConvenience 51 subjects 148 implantsRetrospective 20 yConvenience 51 subjects 2367 implantsRetrospective 20 yConvenience 51 subjects 230 subjects 230 subjects 230 subjects 230 subjects 230 subjects 230 subjects 230 subjects 230 subjectsRetrospective 20 yConvenience 20 subjects 230 subjectsRetrospective 1-11 yConvenience 200 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## TABLE 2 (Continued)

Study	Study design and function time	Sampling and sample size	Occurrence of late implant loss	Etiology of late implant loss	Risk indicators for late implant loss	Consequences of late implant loss
He et al <sup>84</sup>	Retrospective 1-8 y	Convenience 1377 subjects 2684 implants	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 1.0%	Overloading: 15 implants Peri-implantitis: 5 implants Unknown: 7 implants	Not reported	Not reported
Jemt et al <sup>24</sup>	Retrospective 1-28 y	Convenience 8528 subjects 39 077 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 2.2%	Not reported	Jaw Implant surface	Not reported
Jemt <sup>95</sup> Subsample from Jemt et al <sup>24</sup>	Retrospective 4-13 y	Convenience 2848 subjects 9582 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 1.7% <u>Implant level</u> 0.9%	Not reported	Bone resorption Number of implants Jaw	Not reported
Jemt et al <sup>89</sup>	Retrospective 4-16 y	Convenience 1017 subjects 3082 implants	Patient level 2.8% Implant level Not reported	Unknown: 6 implants Remaining implants: Inflammation or Peri-implantitis	Smoking Direct implant installation Implant type	Not reported
Jungner et al <sup>90</sup>	Retrospective 5-7.8 y	Convenience 103 subjects 287 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 3.9% <u>Implant level</u> 2.1%	Infection and marginal bone loss: 1 out of 6 lost implants	Not reported	Not reported
Koldsland et al <sup>15</sup>	Retrospective 1-16 y	Convenience 109 subjects 372 implants	Patient level 6.4% Implant level 1.9%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Lin et al <sup>43</sup>	Retrospective 1-6 y	Random selection/2 hospitals 18 199 subjects 30 959 implants	Patient level 1.1% Implant level 0.7%	Not reported	Age Gender Implant length Augmentation	Not reported
Levin et al <sup>70</sup>	Retrospective 1.5-12 y	Convenience 717 subjects 2259 implants	Patient level Not reported Implant level 2.2%	Not reported	History of periodontitis (after > 50 mo of follow-up)	Not reported
Malò et al <sup>33</sup>	Prospective 5 y	Convenience 86 subjects 338 implants	Patient level 1.2% Implant level 0.3%	Peri-implantitis: 1 implant	Not reported	New implant placement: 1 patient
Noda et al <sup>52</sup>	Retrospective 0-17 y	Convenience 296 subjects 721 implants	Patient level 2.8% Implant level 1.4%	Not reported	Jaw Region Number of teeth Opposing dentition Prosthetic retention	Not reported
Romeo et al <sup>85</sup>	Retrospective 1-7 y	Convenience 201 subjects 677 implants	Patient level 10.5% Implant level 4.4%	Overloading: 6 implants Implant fracture: 3 implants Peri-implantitis: 21 implants	Not reported	Not reported

#### TABLE 2 (Continued)

-WILEY\_\_\_\_\_23

Study	Study design and function time	Sampling and sample size	Occurrence of late implant loss	Etiology of late implant loss	Risk indicators for late implant loss	Consequences of late implant loss
Rasmusson et al <sup>47</sup>	Prospective 10 y	Convenience 36 subjects 199 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 0% <u>Implant level</u> 0%	No late implant loss	No late implant loss	No late implant loss
Roccuzzo et al <sup>49</sup>	Prospective 10 y	Convenience 101 subjects 246 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 14.9% <u>Implant level</u> 7.3%	All implants removed because of biologic complications	Supportive periodontal therapy	Not reported
Roccuzzo et al <sup>48</sup>	Prospective 10 y	Convenience 123 subjects 252 implants	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 2.4%	All implants removed because of biologic complications	None identified	Not reported
Roos-Jansåker et al <sup>51</sup>	Retrospective 9-14 y	Convenience 218 subjects 1057 implants	Patient level 4.6% Implant level 1.7%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Rosenberg et al <sup>59</sup>	Retrospective 1-13 y	Convenience 334 subjects 1511 implants	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 2.3%	Late implant loss was peri- implantitis- related	History of periodontitis	Not reported
Ueda et al <sup>53</sup>	Retrospective 10-24 y	Convenience 101 subjects 202 implants	Patient level 9.9% Implant level 6.4%	Implant mobility: 11 implants Peri-implantitis: 2 implants	Not reported	New implant placement: 6 patients Modified supra- constructions: 3 patients Supra-constructions lost and not replaced: 1 patient
Vervaeke et al <sup>26</sup>	Retrospective 2-5 y	Convenience 376 subjects 1320 implants	<u>Patient level</u> 2.1% <u>Implant level</u> 0.8%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Wagenberg & Froum <sup>86</sup>	Retrospective 1-16 y	Convenience 891 subjects 1925 implants	<u>Patient level</u> Not reported <u>Implant level</u> 0.3%	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

## 3 | STUDIES ON IMPLANT LOSS

#### 3.1 | Study samples

Scientific documentation of outcomes following the use of dental implants is predominantly based on assessments made in selected patient groups, so-called "convenience samples",<sup>10</sup> in which treatment was carried out by clinicians in specialist and/or university settings. Such studies evaluated efficacy (ie, the probability of an intervention being beneficial to patients treated under optimal conditions) rather than effectiveness (ie, the care provided to the general population under conditions found in practice). Regardless of study design, data from both clinical trials and observational research should aim at high internal and external validity. While internal validity relates to factors such as patient selection, measurement errors, and adequate statistical analysis, external validity describes the possibility of generalizing findings from a given study sample to the general population. Randomized controlled clinical trials, for instance, commonly enroll selected participants who might differ significantly from the overall population. For instance, participants in such trials have been shown to be healthier than the background populations studied.<sup>35,36</sup> Internal and external validity may be in conflict.<sup>37</sup> The trade-off exists in that interventional research is usually superior to observational studies in terms of internal validity, while external validity may suffer.<sup>38,39</sup>

Virtually all studies assessing early and late implant loss (Tables 1 and 2) included convenience samples, with treatment frequently provided at one clinical center. Only a few examples are available -WILEY- Periodontology 2000

describing randomly selected patient samples. One such study is the nationwide survey from Sweden described by Derks et al,<sup>5</sup> in which the authors identified a cohort of 2765 individuals provided with 11 311 implants in a registry maintained by the Swedish Social Insurance Agency. Patients in this cohort represented different age categories, were treated by different categories of clinicians, and received various types of therapy under everyday conditions. Another study aiming at describing effectiveness of implant therapy used an implant registry in Finland to assess the occurrence of loss among 198,538 dental implants placed between 1994 and 2012, but not distinguishing between early and late loss.<sup>40</sup> In addition to information on implant loss, the registry included basic background information such as gender, jaw of treatment, implant brand, and implant length. In this context, it must be recognized that findings in the study by Antalainen et al<sup>40</sup> were based on events documented in the registry by clinicians on a voluntary basis, introducing a risk for underreporting. A different approach to sampling was presented by Seemann et al.<sup>41</sup> who considered market records. The authors evaluated sales data of almost 70 000 implants in Austria, focusing on return rates, and extrapolating from these data the incidence of implant loss over a 7-year period.

Large study samples are not restricted to registry studies only. Several studies on conveniently selected populations of extensive size have been published. Two of the largest such reports also originate from Scandinavia. Jemt et al<sup>24</sup> included > 8500 patients treated at one clinical center and reported on early and late implant loss occurring over a 28-year period. Chrcanovic et al<sup>42</sup> reported on early implant loss in > 2600 subjects treated in another specialist clinic. In this context, it should be noted that external validity is not only related to sample size, but rather reflects the variability among the population, treatment, and clinicians. In a study conducted by Lin et al,<sup>43</sup> the records of > 18 000 patients were analyzed with regard to implant loss. As a large number of subjects was identified in the databases of two major hospitals in Hangzhou, China, it may be speculated that such a patient cohort could, in fact, be representative of the city, region, and possibly even the country.

In summary, the majority of studies evaluating implant loss have the characteristics of efficacy studies. While data originating from such studies may be of high internal validity, the external validity of findings may be limited.

#### 3.2 | Study design

The incidence and occurrence of implant loss can be evaluated in longitudinal, observational research of prospective or retrospective design. Such studies, when a sufficient number of subjects are included, may also, through statistical analysis, explore potential risk indicators for the event. The majority of studies on early and particularly on late implant loss are retrospective and designed as case series<sup>44</sup> (Tables 1 and 2). However, some prospective, observational assessments of late implant loss with long-term follow-up periods are available.<sup>45-49</sup> Study design may have an impact on the level of

implant loss observed. Thus, the highest loss rates relative to followup were reported in prospective studies,<sup>49,50</sup> while retrospective reports generally indicated lower figures of late implant loss.<sup>5,43,51-53</sup>

Associations between risk indicators and implant loss identified in observational research may be further analyzed in interventional studies with adequate controls. Typical examples of such trials evaluated the potential benefit of the adjunctive use of systemic antibiotics at the time of implant installation in terms of early implant loss.<sup>54-58</sup> These clinical trials included a short-term follow-up, not exceeding 5 months. An example regarding late implant loss assessed by interventional design is the long-term follow-up of a randomized controlled trial performed by Donati et al.<sup>50</sup> The authors compared implants with modified and nonmodified surfaces over a period of 20 years. However, a majority of evaluations of modifying factors for implant loss (eg, history of periodontitis, smoking, and implant brand) have been performed retrospectively, within a given patient cohort.<sup>5,15,51,59</sup> Another approach is the use of historical controls. Thus, Balshe et al<sup>60</sup> compared loss rates occurring during 1991-1996 with outcomes from 2001-2005. In the study performed by Jemt et al,<sup>24</sup> a similar approach was applied, considering the respective intervals 1986-2002 and 2003-2012. During the earlier time periods in both studies, clinicians used nonmodified implants, while modified surface implants were utilized during the latter periods.

Analysis of risk factors is, however, not only influenced by the study design. Heterogeneous definitions and assessments of exposures may result in biased evaluations. Also, the completeness and accuracy of anamnestic and therapeutic information is, regardless of design, a prerequisite for an adequate estimation. The challenge in terms of data collection may be illustrated by the report published by Lin et al.<sup>43</sup> As referred to above, the authors accessed patient files of > 18 000 patients provided with implants at two clinical centers in China. While the hospital files were accessible and information on implant therapy and implant loss could be retrieved, no data on systemic disorders, smoking, or periodontal history were available. Ideally, to maintain statistical power and generalizability, a careful balance between sample size and data quality needs to be considered.

#### 4 | EARLY IMPLANT LOSS

Relevant studies reporting on early implant loss are illustrated in Table 1. Study sizes varied from small case series with 36 subjects<sup>47</sup> to studies including >  $8500^{24}$  and > 18 000 individuals.<sup>43</sup> A retrospective study design was applied in 33 out of 50 identified studies, mostly designed as case series. Of the remaining reports, 13 were prospective and observational, while the other four included a controlled design. These randomized trials compared either the use of a one- vs two-stage installation protocol or the adjunctive use of systemic antibiotics vs placebo. One trial evaluated the impact of implant surface characteristics.

In general, treatment procedures and protocols varied considerably among the studies focusing on early implant loss. This may be exemplified by the different selection of patients, ranging from fully edentulous individuals only<sup>47</sup> to single-tooth replacement cases.<sup>61</sup> An additional example is the wide range of different surgical and prosthetic protocols considered.

In the studies on early implant loss, observation periods were typically limited to the first couple of months following implant installation,<sup>16,42</sup> sometimes extending up to 12 months.<sup>20-24,27</sup>

## 4.1 | Etiology

In the epidemiological context, the term etiology implies a causal association between an exposure and an outcome. In other words, for any event to occur, an etiological factor needs to be present. A risk factor, on the other hand, modifies the probability of the event but is not an absolute prerequisite. Criteria for scientific evidence supporting causation have been suggested and critically discussed.<sup>62,63</sup> Regardless of any specific criteria, it is obvious that research evaluating potential etiological factors needs to be longitudinal. This enables the distinction between exposed and nonexposed individuals or sites to be assessed or assigned prior to the event of interest. Any causal association needs to be confirmed in prospective and/or intervention studies. As the number of prospective studies on early implant loss is limited and restricted to a few potential factors, a clear etiological pathway has yet to be established. Any observed association between a condition or exposure and the event may, however, serve to identify potential etiological factors. In this context, one common feature described in some studies was the presence of clinical signs of inflammation at the affected implant site. Several authors reported up to 50% of early lost implants to demonstrate such features at the time of the event. Thus, in the study conducted by Han et al.<sup>64</sup> 40 of the 86 early lost implants were associated with signs of inflammation. The corresponding proportions reported in the studies conducted by Buser et al,<sup>65</sup> Esposito et al,<sup>58</sup> and Olmedo-Gaya et al<sup>66</sup> were five out of 13, seven out of 21, and six out of 16 lost implants, respectively. The lost implants not associated with inflammation were described as asymptomatic. In fact, the data reported by Bornstein et al<sup>67</sup> indicated that 10 out of 13 early lost implants exhibited mobility but showed no signs of inflammation. Pain in conjunction with early implant loss appears to be a rare event.<sup>58</sup> The establishment of a fibrotic encapsulation has been proposed as an explanation for a mobile implant free of any symptoms.<sup>68</sup> This soft tissue encapsulation, in turn, may be related to compromised primary stability of the installed implants. In the study conducted by Cecchinato et al,<sup>16</sup> seven implants were lost prior to prosthetic restoration. Of these, five presented with reduced primary stability at installation. Data reported by Noguerol et al<sup>69</sup> are in agreement. The authors found a significant association between reduced primary implant stability at installation, as assessed by resonance frequency analysis, and early implant loss. The effect of immediate or early prosthetic loading in this context is unclear.

In summary, no solid data revealing any clear and specific etiology of early implant loss are currently available. Early implant loss appears to present in two distinct clinical forms, one being completely asymptomatic, while the other is characterized by inflammation.

## 4.2 | Occurrence

Early implant loss as an outcome is routinely reported at the implant level (Table 1) and findings varied significantly between studies. Early implant loss at the implant level ranged from 0%<sup>22,48,49</sup> to values iust below 6%.<sup>21,57,59,66</sup> The studies reporting no early losses were all limited in size and based on convenience samples. Thus, Roccuzzo et al included 101<sup>49</sup> and 123 patients, <sup>48</sup> respectively, while Friberg and Jemt<sup>22</sup> reported on 76 individuals. Studies with large patient cohorts, on the other hand, reported consistent levels of early implant loss. Thus, Jemt et al,<sup>24</sup> in a study involving 8528 subjects, found that 2.0% of all implants were lost within 1 year following installation. In a subsample of patients treated from 2003 to 2011, the corresponding proportion was 1.2%.<sup>27</sup> Levin et al,<sup>70</sup> Chrcanovic et al,<sup>42</sup> and Derks et al<sup>5</sup> reported results of 1.9%, 1.7%, and 1.4%, respectively. These three studies considered a time period from installation to prosthetic treatment only. In this context, the study conducted by Lin et al<sup>43</sup> is an outlier. The authors analyzed early implant loss in > 18 000 patients, also considering the time period from installation to prosthetic treatment. A relatively low incidence of 0.6% was reported.

The occurrence of early implant loss at the patient level (ie, the proportion of patients experiencing the event) was not consistently reported in all of the identified studies, but was generally higher compared with implant level data. Values ranged from 1%<sup>33,43,67,71-73</sup> to just below 10%.<sup>15,68,74</sup> Only four studies, describing particular scenarios, reported values exceeding 10%. Thus, DeLuca et al<sup>75</sup> evaluated a population with both a high number of implants per individual (mean: 4.0) and a high proportion of former or current smokers (49%). Karaky et al<sup>57</sup> used a flapless technique for the installation of the majority of implants, while Rasmusson et al<sup>47</sup> included only edentulous patients, resulting in a high number of implants per individual (mean: 5.5). Finally, Urban et al,<sup>61</sup> with the highest overall incidence of 16.3%, included only single implants that were installed immediately following extraction at molar sites.

Studies including large patient cohorts also reported consistent levels of early implant loss at the patient level. Jemt et  $al^{24}$  noted an incidence of 7.0%, while Chrcanovic et  $al^{42}$  and Derks et  $al^5$  reported results of 5.2% and 4.4%, respectively. The large-scale study conducted by Lin et  $al^{43}$  was, again, an outlier, reporting a considerably lower figure of only 1.0%.

In summary, early loss is estimated to occur for 1.5% of implants (one in 67) and in approximately 4% of patients (one in 25). As suggested at the 8th European Workshop on Periodontology, patient level data are the clinically more relevant form of data presentation, which is also in line with today's patient-centered approach to care. Early implant loss will potentially jeopardize the possibility of continuing with the restorative part of the treatment plan, thus WILEY-

Periodontology 2000

negatively affecting the patient. Details regarding the consequences of early implant loss follow below.

#### 4.3 | Risk indicators for early implant loss

Prospective cohort studies, the study design for risk analysis with the lowest risk of bias, were rare. In this context, it should be noted that, because of ethical considerations, most risk factors cannot be studied in a prospective fashion. Nor can all types of exposure be randomly assigned. Typical examples in the field of implant dentistry are "smoking", "history of periodontitis", and "maintenance care". As patient care cannot be neglected and certain conditions may demand intervention, only retrospective and observational evaluations are feasible. Grimes and Schulz<sup>76</sup> addressed the risk of bias that such research entails. In a commentary on the limitations of observational epidemiology, the authors presented several historical examples of supposed associations that were later refuted by interventional research. Selection, information, and/or confounding bias were discussed as explanations for erroneously reported associations.<sup>37</sup> As a consequence, it was suggested that weak correlations demonstrated in observational research with odds ratios not exceeding 3 should be disregarded, irrespective of statistical significance.<sup>76</sup>

#### 4.3.1 | Smoking

The majority of studies including analyses of risk indicators identified smoking as being associated with early implant loss.<sup>25,52,61,67-69,75,77,78</sup> The association was also supported by two of the largest investigations including > 2500 subjects.<sup>5,42</sup> A number of studies, however, failed to identify smoking as a predictor for early implant loss.<sup>22,48,49,58,66,74,79</sup> In three of these studies, <sup>22,48,49</sup> no early implant loss occurred. In the study conducted by Cavalcanti et al,<sup>79</sup> smoking was associated with overall implant loss and, although not statistically significant, Baqain et al<sup>74</sup> and Olmedo-Gaya et al<sup>66</sup> described a 2- to 3-fold proportion of early implant loss among smokers compared with nonsmokers. It may be speculated that the studies not identifying smoking as a relevant factor suffered from a lack of statistical power. Five studies<sup>24,27,43,59,80</sup> did not consider smoking as a factor in their risk analyses for early implant loss.

#### 4.3.2 | Systemic diseases/status

Convenient sampling tends to exclude individuals with systemic diseases. This is further highlighted by the fact that the majority of studies did not consider systemic disorders in their risk analysis of early implant loss.<sup>24,27,43,48,49,52,58,59,61,69,79,80</sup> Among studies including systemic diseases and/or status, several conditions have been associated with the outcome in single investigations yet to be confirmed by other evaluations. Thus, osteoporosis and Crohn's disease

were highlighted in one study,<sup>68</sup> while another identified a history of radiotherapy and chemotherapy as well as claustrophobia to be of significance.<sup>78</sup> Furthermore, male patients were at higher risk compared with female patients,<sup>43,66</sup> while higher age was found to be protective in one study<sup>69</sup> but was identified as a risk indicator in another.<sup>43</sup> In the analysis performed by Chrcanovic et al,<sup>42</sup> intake of antidepressants was the only factor significantly associated with early implant loss. A number of additional studies considered patients' general health status but found no correlations.<sup>5,22,25,67,74,75,77</sup>

#### 4.3.3 | History of periodontitis

Ten studies considered a history of periodontitis as a potential factor in their risk analyses. Only two studies<sup>5,66</sup> reported a higher risk for early implant loss in periodontally susceptible individuals, while the other eight found no such association.<sup>25,42,48,49,59,61,69,78</sup> In this context, it should be noted that the categorization in terms of history of periodontitis differed considerably among studies. Thus, Urban et al<sup>61</sup> considered the reason for extraction of the tooth to be replaced as the categorization criteria, while Roccuzzo et al<sup>48,49</sup> categorized the patients based on full-mouth periodontal probing. Furthermore, the distinction in the study performed by Derks et al<sup>5</sup> was based solely on diagnoses reported in patient files. It may be speculated that a "history of periodontitis" is reflective of the presence of compromised sites at the time of implant installation. The bone loss caused by periodontal disease may therefore be the "true" predictor for early implant loss, rather than the underlying disease susceptibility.

#### 4.3.4 | Clinical experience/training

The level of training of clinicians has been discussed as an important factor for failure rates in implant dentistry. Albrektsson et al<sup>81</sup> stated that experienced and well-trained dental professionals may achieve low rates of complications, including implant loss. The majority of screened studies, however, did not consider the level of experience/training of the surgeon in their risk analyses of early implant loss. In a number of reports, only one surgeon was involved, 48,49,59,61,66,78 making any analysis impossible. In three studies, an association between the clinician and early loss was observed. Thus, Antoun et al<sup>25</sup> noted less early implant loss with increasing clinical experience over time, while Cavalcanti et al<sup>79</sup> found a center effect, illustrated by a significantly higher number of early losses at one out of four clinics included in the study. And, finally, Jemt<sup>27</sup> described a significantly lower risk for early loss for patients treated by one specific surgeon out of a total of six clinicians. Three additional studies<sup>5,58,75</sup> considered clinical experience but failed to identify any association with the outcome. As it may be assumed that more complicated clinical situations are commonly handled by more experienced clinicians, it is possible that confounding may complicate this particular analysis. Adjusting for

the inherent complexity of each individual case throughout any statistical analysis is probably unrealistic.

#### 4.3.5 | Treatment-related factors

Almost all studies considered treatment-related factors in their risk analyses on early implant loss. A number of studies identified implants placed in the maxilla,<sup>24,75</sup> or in the posterior region of the maxilla in particular,<sup>59,68,80</sup> to be at higher risk. Interestingly, the study with the largest cohort reported the highest risk for early loss for implants placed in the anterior region of the mandible.<sup>43</sup>

Two studies<sup>25,58</sup> found immediate implant installation following tooth extraction to be associated with early loss, and one study<sup>66</sup> reported a higher risk for cases in which expansion techniques were used during implant osteotomy. Only one study found that the extent of therapy, as expressed by the number of inserted implants, was significantly associated with early loss.<sup>27</sup>

A substantial number of studies failed to identify treatmentrelated factors, such as area and extent of treatment, as well as the timing and technique of implant installation, as significant predictors for early implant loss.<sup>5,16,22,42,48,49,52,61,67,69,74,77,78</sup> It should be considered that the wide variation in therapeutic approaches evaluated in the different cohorts may have resulted in restricted numbers of any specific treatment, leading to a lack of statistical power.

#### 4.3.6 | Implant characteristics

All but seven studies considered implant characteristics in their risk analyses on early implant loss. Among these, several implant features have been associated with the outcome, but results across studies were inconsistent. Thus, implants with a narrow diameter were found to be at a higher risk by Alsaadi et al,<sup>68</sup> which was not confirmed by a number of other reports.<sup>5,43,52,67,69,77,78</sup> Implant length was found to be associated with early loss in five studies,<sup>5,43,66,75,80</sup> all reporting a higher risk for shorter implants. Again, these findings were not in line with data from several other reports, none of which found such a correlation.<sup>52,61,67,69,77,78</sup> It may be speculated that reduced implant dimensions (ie, narrow diameter and/or short implants) are commonly chosen at compromised sites, which may confound the analyses.

Three studies observed differences in rates of early implant loss according to implant brand and/or implant surface characteristics.<sup>5,24,59</sup> When evaluating the specific impact of implant surface characteristics, it should be recognized that implants by different brands may differ in ways other than implant surface characteristics (eg, in implant or thread geometry). Thus, while Rosenberg et al<sup>59</sup> and Derks et al<sup>5</sup> found higher rates of early implant loss for specific brands, Jemt et al<sup>24</sup> linked the modification of the implant surface to reduced loss rates. Data from several other studies are not in agreement as they failed to observe any differences for early loss explained by either surface characteristics, implant system, or implant brand.<sup>25,42,43,68,77,78</sup> Interestingly, a trial evaluating the impact of surface modifications in a randomized fashion also failed to identify its importance on the outcome.<sup>82</sup> The overall evidence on the potential impact of implant (surface) characteristics on the occurrence of early implant loss is limited.

#### 4.3.7 | Other risk indicators

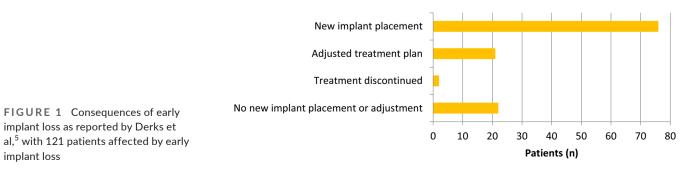
A number of other potential risk indicators have been identified in single studies. Thus, Baqain et al<sup>74</sup> found that reduced dimensions of keratinized mucosa and the use of polyglactin sutures were associated with early implant loss. AlsoAUTHO, Noguerol et al<sup>69</sup> linked reduced primary implant stability, as assessed by resonance frequency analysis, to the event. And finally, Urban et al<sup>61</sup> found that the defect dimensions of extraction sites were indicative of early loss of immediately installed implants.

In summary, there is substantial evidence that smoking constitutes a risk indicator for early implant loss. While some data suggest that implants installed in the maxilla and implants of reduced length present a higher risk, evidence on additional putative risk indicators (eg, gender, age, systemic disorders, a history of periodontitis, clinical experience, and implant surface modifications) is inconclusive.

#### 4.4 | Consequences of early implant loss

It is obvious that the consequences of a complication, rather than the diagnosis or event itself, may be the primary concern of the patient. It is therefore noteworthy that the consequences of early implant loss were reported in only five of the identified studies. Thus,

#### **Consequences of early implant loss**



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Cecchinato et al<sup>16</sup> described the early loss of seven implants. At four of these sites, implant installation was repeated and then the original treatment plan was followed. Malò et al<sup>33</sup> reported one implant loss at 6 months following installation and immediate loading. After an additional 6 months of healing, a new implant was installed and a new supra-construction was fabricated. Similar consequences were described by Cannizzaro et al<sup>32</sup> as the two early implant losses resulted in new implant installation and the fabrication of new prostheses. One of the five studies included a large patient cohort,<sup>5</sup> in which a total of 121 patients were affected. Early implant loss resulted in new implant placement in 76, in an adjusted treatment plan in 21, in discontinued therapy in two, and in the completion of therapy without new implant placement or adjustments in 22 individuals. The results are graphically illustrated in Figure 1. In the study conducted by Wennström et al.<sup>82</sup> the treatment plan of the one patient experiencing early implant loss was not affected.

In summary, data indicate that early implant loss has significant consequences for the affected patient, commonly resulting in renewed implant installation and/or adjustment of the treatment plan.

### 5 | LATE IMPLANT LOSS

Relevant studies reporting on late implant loss are illustrated in Table 2. Here also, study sizes varied from 36 subjects<sup>47</sup> to  $> 8500^{24}$  and  $> 18\ 000$  individuals.<sup>43</sup> Of the 37 identified studies, 26 were retrospective and 11 had a prospective follow-up. The large majority

of reports were observational, designed as case series or cohort studies. Only the study conducted by Donati et al<sup>50</sup> included an interventional approach (ie, a randomized assignment of subjects or sites into test and control groups). Among studies on late implant loss, treatment procedures, protocols, and extent of therapy varied considerably.

In order to make valid assessments of late implant loss and associated risk parameters, studies need to extend over clinically meaningful follow-up periods. This is illustrated by the data presented by Levin et al.<sup>70</sup> While no effect of susceptibility to periodontitis on the rate of implant loss was observed for the first 50 months of follow-up, data indicated an 8-fold greater hazard for patients with severe periodontitis to lose an implant in the longer perspective (> 50 months). In prospective studies, where a protocol for follow-up is established a priori, all patients reaching the end point of the study present with the same time of follow-up. In retrospective studies, the follow-up may be extensive but commonly varies considerably within the study sample.<sup>24,43,53,83</sup> In addition, some authors reported the mean follow-up time, while others focused on the maximum time of observation (in the title and abstract). This is exemplified by one study including > 2000 patients,<sup>72</sup> in which the upper limit of the observation period reached 11 years. However, the dataset indicated that only two of the observed patients had, in fact, a follow-up of  $\geq$ 10 years. More than half of all patients were followed for  $\leq$  2 years, resulting in a mean observation period of < 3 years for the entire cohort. This type of retrospective analysis, including patients with minimal follow-up time, is common.<sup>15,24,43,52,59,64,70,84-86</sup> An exception.



FIGURE 2 A, Implant installed 12 y earlier. Clinical features: mobility and shallow peri-implant probing. Note the peri-implant radiolucency (gap) and seemingly maintained peri-implant marginal bone levels. Etiological factor for late implant loss: overload/trauma resulting in loss of integration. B, Implant installed 8 y earlier. Clinical features: deep peri-implant probing, signs of soft tissue inflammation, and absence of mobility. Note the crater-like bone defect. Etiological factor for late implant loss: peri-implantitis in this regard, is the study conducted by Chrcanovic et al.<sup>87</sup> The authors identified 227 patients with a long-term follow-up ranging from a lower minimum of 20 years to a maximum of 36 years. As implant loss occurs and accumulates over time, it is expected that studies with longer follow-up periods will also report higher rates of late loss, while the inclusion of recently treated patients will most likely result in underestimation.

## 5.1 | Etiology

As discussed earlier, any causal association between an exposure (etiological factor) and an outcome (eg, late implant loss) needs to be confirmed in prospective and/or intervention studies. Similar to early implant loss, the number of prospective studies is limited. Observational, retrospective studies identified some potential etiological factors, which are listed below.

#### 5.1.1 | Peri-implantitis

In the available literature, peri-implantitis<sup>88</sup> has also been defined by descriptive terms such as "progressive bone loss", "biological complication", and "ongoing infection", and was the most commonly reported etiological factor for late implant loss. Thus, in five studies, all late loss occurred as a consequence of the disease,<sup>33,48,49,59,83</sup> and in three additional studies the majority of implants were lost as a result of peri-implantitis.<sup>21,85,89</sup> The proportion of implant loss related to peri-implantitis was  $\leq$  50% in only five studies<sup>53,64,65,84,90</sup> and 0% in one long-term, prospective study.<sup>50</sup>

#### 5.1.2 | Implant fracture

The second most common etiological factor reported was implant fracture. In fact, it was the most common reason for implant loss in the long-term, prospective study performed by Donati et al,<sup>50</sup> explaining 17 of the 18 observed losses. Other studies, however, reported considerably lower rates of 1/6,<sup>65</sup> 15/112,<sup>87</sup> 1/6,<sup>21</sup> 11/64,<sup>64</sup> and 3/30.<sup>85</sup> A number of studies found that none of the observed late implant losses were caused by fractures.<sup>48,49,59,84,89</sup> It is also conceivable that the two factors, "implant fracture" and "periimplantitis", may, in some cases, be related. A fracture of the implant may secondarily display the clinical and radiographic features associated with peri-implantitis.

## 5.1.3 | Overload/trauma resulting in loss of integration

In a preclinical study, Isidor<sup>91</sup> distinguished between the effects of occlusal overload and soft tissue inflammation on osseointegration. While overload/trauma led to the sudden loss of all osseointegration

and the development of a gap between the implant surface and the surrounding mineralized tissues, the ligature-induced soft tissue inflammation resulted in progressive, marginal bone loss. Thus, although both situations are technically characterized by peri-implant bone loss and may result in late implant loss, the etiological factors are distinctly different (Figure 2A,B).

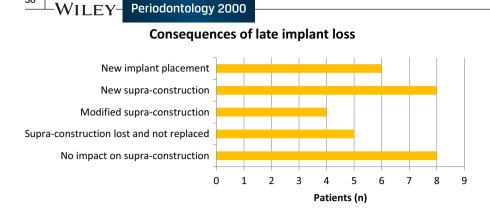
Overload/trauma leading to loss of integration and late implant loss was clearly described in only one study.<sup>50</sup> The authors categorized one out of the 18 observed late losses accordingly. However, excessive occlusal load could also be implicated in implant fractures, resulting in the loss of the remaining 17 implants. Three studies considered a substantial proportion of the observed late losses to be attributable to "overloading" without specifying the associated features. Thus, Han et al,<sup>64</sup> He et al,<sup>84</sup> and Romeo et al<sup>85</sup> categorized 34 out of 64, 15 out of 27, and six out of 30 losses, respectively. None of the authors defined the status as "overloading".

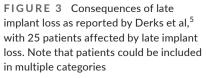
In summary, data suggest that peri-implantitis constitutes the most common etiological factor for late implant loss. Other causes of late losses are implant fractures and overload/trauma resulting in loss of integration. Some studies referred to "implant mobility" and "loss of integration" when reporting on the etiology of late implant loss. It may be argued that these terms describe symptoms related to the event rather than a cause.

#### 5.2 | Occurrence

Late implant loss was routinely reported at the implant level (Table 2) and findings varied significantly among studies. Outcomes at the implant level ranged from below 1%<sup>26,32,33,43,45-47,72,73,86,89,92,93</sup> to around 10%.<sup>50,83,87</sup> The significant variation in outcomes may, in part, be explained by the differences in observation periods. The two studies reporting the highest rates of late implant loss at the implant level<sup>50,87</sup> had follow-up periods of 20-36 and 20 years. Studies with low rates of late loss, on the other hand, were either small,<sup>45-47</sup> retrospective in design,<sup>52,59,92</sup> and/ or included patients with minimal follow-up.43,52,64,72,84,86,93 Similar to the findings presented on early implant loss, studies with large patient cohorts followed over relevant time periods reported consistent results for late loss at the implant level. Thus, after a mean observation time of 8 and 5 years, Chrcanovic et al<sup>94</sup> and DeLuca et al<sup>75</sup> found a late loss rate of 3.7% and 3.5%, respectively. Levin et al<sup>70</sup> and Jemt et al<sup>24</sup> both reported a slightly lower figure of 2.2%. One study including a cohort of randomly selected patients followed for 9 years noted a late loss of 2.0% of all implants.<sup>5</sup> The study conducted by Lin et al<sup>43</sup> was the only study including a large patient cohort that indicated a substantially lower incidence of late implant loss (0.7%). It should be kept in mind, however, that the dataset covered a mean follow-up time of only 3 years.

Data on late implant loss at the patient level, when reported, were higher compared with the implant level. Rates ranged from  $1\%^{33,43,72,92}$  to 10% and higher.<sup>34,49,53,83,85</sup> In the 20-year follow-up described by Donati et al,<sup>50</sup> 19.6% of all patients experienced late implant loss. In a description of a large Swedish population treated during 2003-2011 including > 2800 individuals followed for 4-13 years,<sup>27</sup> 1.7% of patients





were affected. This was somewhat lower than observed in two other Swedish cohorts. Thus, Roos-Jansåker et al<sup>51</sup> and Derks et al,<sup>5</sup> after observation periods of 9-14 and 9 years, respectively, reported that 4.6% and 4.2% of patients experienced late implant loss. The differences may, in part, be explained by the differences in follow-up referred to. In particular, the inclusion of patients after periods as short as 0,<sup>52</sup> 1,<sup>24,43,64,72,84,86,93</sup> 2,<sup>26,70</sup> or 4 years<sup>27</sup> may dilute outcomes of late implant loss. In this context, the retrospective data presented by Alsaadi et al<sup>34</sup> are remarkable as a relatively high proportion of patients (16.0%) had already experienced late implant loss after a short follow-up period of 2 years. The reasons for these findings are not fully understood. The authors, however, reported that patients with compromised systemic health were also routinely offered implant therapy.

In summary, data suggest that late loss occurs at 3% of implant sites (one of 33 implants) over observation periods of 10 years. In the longer perspective (20 years), figures of up to 10% (one in 10 implants) may be expected. Late implant loss affects approximately 4% of patients over 10 years (one in 25).

#### 5.3 | Risk indicators for late implant loss

#### 5.3.1 | Smoking

The majority of studies did not identify smoking as associated with late implant loss.<sup>5,32,34,52,83</sup> Only two studies demonstrated a higher risk for smokers. Thus, DeLuca et al,<sup>75</sup> in a population with a high proportion of former or current smokers (49%), found that a history of smoking was associated with late implant loss. The authors also noted that, in contrast to smoking history, smoking status at the time of implant installation was not a significant predictor of the outcome. Jemt et al,<sup>89</sup> on the other hand, reported that smoking at the time of implant surgery was associated with late loss over an observation period of 4-16 years. A total of 19% of individuals were smokers. Former smokers were not considered in the analysis.

#### 5.3.2 | Systemic diseases/status

As was observed for the risk analyses on early implant loss, most studies on late loss did not include systemic disorders in their evaluation. Neither gender nor age was found to be significantly associated with late implant loss in three studies.<sup>52,75,95</sup> Lin et al,<sup>43</sup> on the other hand, noted an elevated risk for both older and male patients. Radiotherapy was found to be associated with implant loss in one study.<sup>34</sup> It should be noted, however, that out of 412 patients included, the number of subjects undergoing radiotherapy was two. The remaining studies failed to observe any correlation between patients' general health and late implant loss.<sup>5,32,83,89</sup>

#### 5.3.3 | History of periodontitis

Seven studies considered a history of periodontitis as a potential predictor of late implant loss, but only two reported a positive association. Thus, Rosenberg et al<sup>59</sup> and Levin et al<sup>70</sup> observed a 5-8 times higher incidence of late implant loss in periodontally compromised patients compared with healthy subjects. None of the other studies considering either a history of periodontitis or current periodontitis confirmed this finding.<sup>5,48,49,83,89</sup> As discussed earlier, the categorization in terms of susceptibility for periodontitis differed among studies.

#### 5.3.4 | Clinical experience/training

Only a minority of the identified papers studied the effect of experience or training of dental professionals on late implant loss and these analyses were limited to the surgical part of the therapy,<sup>75,89,95</sup> while only one report considered the level of clinical expertise with respect to prosthetic treatment and during supportive care.<sup>5</sup> None of the investigations identified any statistically significant association with late implant loss.

#### 5.3.5 | Maintenance therapy and infection control

Information on the quality and extent of maintenance therapy was rarely considered in the risk analyses for late implant loss, nor was the level of patient-performed infection control. Only three studies included such data. Thus, Roccuzzo et al<sup>49</sup> followed 101 subjects prospectively over a 10-year period. The authors found that the risk

of late implant loss was greater in subjects not adhering to supportive periodontal therapy. This finding, however, was not confirmed in a later investigation by the same group.<sup>48</sup> In the observational study performed by Derks et al,<sup>5</sup> late implant loss during a follow-up of 9 years was found not to be related to frequency of recall and/or maintenance visits. While adherence to a suggested maintenance protocol may be easily assessed, it is probably more difficult to adequately describe the quality of supportive therapy and the level of self-performed home care. Thus, analyses as described above may suffer from inaccurate categorization of patient compliance.

#### 5.3.6 | Treatment-related factors

As was the case for early implant loss, most studies evaluated the impact of treatment-related factors on late implant loss. A total of five studies found implant location and/or jaw of treatment to be significant predictors for the outcome. Findings, however, were conflicting. While four of the studies reported a higher incidence for late loss for maxillary implants,<sup>24,34,52,75</sup> one study described a higher risk for implants placed in the mandible.<sup>95</sup> Four studies failed to identify any association in terms of jaw of treatment.<sup>5,43,83,89</sup> Several other significant factors were described only by single studies. Thus, one study<sup>89</sup> found that a two-stage procedure used for implant installation was associated with late loss, while another study reported that the extent of therapy, as expressed by the number of inserted implants, was significantly related.<sup>95</sup> Furthermore, one study reported a higher incidence of late implant loss at augmented sites,<sup>43</sup> while one investigation identified a higher risk for implants supporting removable supraconstructions and for implant-supported reconstructions occluding with removable partial dentures.<sup>52</sup>

#### 5.3.7 | Implant characteristics

Virtually all the identified studies considered implant characteristics in their risk analyses on late implant loss and different features were found to be of significance. The odds ratio for short (< 10 mm) relative to long (> 13 mm) implants was > 10 in one report,  $^{43}$  not adjusting for other potential factors such as smoking and history of periodontitis. Two studies found significant differences between different implant systems/brands. Thus, Jemt et al<sup>89</sup> reported higher loss rates for one system within one brand, while Derks et al<sup>5</sup> observed lower loss rates for one particular implant brand. Two studies described differences in the incidence of late loss related to implantsurface characteristics.<sup>24,59</sup> Only in the study by Jemt et al,<sup>24</sup> however, were the implants otherwise identical in terms of design and geometry. The authors observed a lower rate of late implant loss for surface-modified as opposed to nonmodified (turned) implants. However, a randomized trial comparing surface-modified and nonmodified implants of otherwise identical design failed to find differences in terms of implant loss over the long term.<sup>50,82</sup> Studies were Periodontology 2000 – WILEY

in general agreement that implant diameter was not associated with late implant loss.<sup>5,32,34,43,52,75,95</sup>

In summary, to date, no risk indicators for late implant loss have been consistently and clearly identified.

#### 5.4 | Consequences of late implant loss

The consequences of late implant loss were reported in only three studies. Thus, in the prospective 5-year follow-up by Malò et al,<sup>33</sup> one patient lost one implant. The authors reported that a new implant was installed but they did not elaborate upon whether the supraconstruction also had to be replaced. As the study included only patients provided with full-jaw restorations supported by four implants, it may be assumed that, in addition to the implant, new prosthetic work was required. Ueda et al<sup>53</sup> reported late implant loss in 10 patients restored with mandibular overdentures on two implants. Out of all affected patients, six received new implants. In three patients, supraconstructions were modified and, in one, the supra-construction was lost and not replaced. Of the 25 patients experiencing late loss in the study performed by Derks et al,<sup>5</sup> six underwent new implant placement procedures. For eight patients, new supra-constructions were produced. For four patients, supra-constructions were modified, while for five subjects, the whole supra-construction was lost and not replaced. For eight cases, late implant loss had no impact on the prosthetic rehabilitation (Figure 3).

In summary, data suggest that late implant loss commonly has significant consequences for the affected patient, resulting in new implant installation and/or new supra-constructions.

#### 6 | TOTAL IMPLANT LOSS

From the patient's perspective, implant loss is a serious complication, regardless of the categorization into early or late. A number of studies described the total proportion of patients experiencing implant loss. Findings in four different investigations from Scandinavia were largely in agreement, ranging from 7.6% to 10.1% of affected patients.<sup>5,15,24,51</sup> Results from two studies performed in the USA reported by Wagenberg and Froum<sup>86</sup> and Balshe et al<sup>60</sup> were also in line, with 7.6% and 8.6% of patients losing at least one implant after 1-16 and 2-7 years, respectively. Somewhat by contrast, a registry study reported lower numbers of implant loss with 3.1% of patients affected,<sup>40</sup> which, as referred to above, may have been a result of incomplete reporting.

At implant level, clinical studies reported an overall loss rate of 3.0%,<sup>5</sup> 4.1%,<sup>70</sup> and 4.3%.<sup>24</sup> Interestingly, data on implant loss originating from sales returns were in agreement with results from these clinical investigations. Thus, Seemann et al<sup>41</sup> found that, over a 7-year period, 2.8% of almost 70 000 sold implants were returned because of loss.

In summary, data suggest that loss occurs for 4% of implants (one in 25) and in 8% of patients (one in 13).

#### 7 | CONCLUDING REMARKS

- The majority of studies evaluating implant loss have the characteristics of efficacy studies. Evaluations in terms of effectiveness are rare.
- No solid data revealing any clear and specific etiology of early implant loss are currently available. Early implant loss appears to present in two distinct clinical forms, one being completely asymptomatic, while the other is characterized by inflammation.
- Early loss is estimated to occur for 1.5% of implants (one in 67) and in approximately 4% of patients (one in 25).
- There is substantial evidence that smoking constitutes a risk indicator for early implant loss. While some data suggest that implants installed in the maxilla and implants of reduced length are at higher risk, evidence on additional putative risk indicators (eg, gender, age, systemic disorders, history of periodontitis, clinical experience, and implant surface modifications) is inconclusive.
- Data indicate that early implant loss has significant consequences for the affected patient, commonly resulting in renewed implant installation and/or adjustment of the treatment plan.
- Data suggest that peri-implantitis constitutes the most common etiological factor for late implant loss. Other causes of late losses are implant fractures and overload/trauma resulting in loss of integration.
- Data suggest that late loss occurs at 3% of implant sites (one in 33 implants) over observation periods of 10 years. Late implant loss affects approximately 4% of patients over 10 years (one in 25).
- To date, risk indicators for late implant loss have been consistently and clearly identified.
- Data suggest that late implant loss commonly has significant consequences for the affected patient, resulting in new implant installation and/or new supra-constructions.

## 8 | FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

Implant loss will continue to be an outcome variable of high interest in research on implant-supported restorative therapy, which should also be evaluated at reconstruction and at patient level. Implant loss should, however, be part of a more comprehensive evaluation than has historically been the case. The consequences of the loss of the implant for the reconstruction and for the patient should be part of this analysis, also addressing cost/benefit issues (ie, the number of appointments needed to adjust/redo the affected reconstruction). In addition, studies should evaluate the incidence/prevalence of biologic and technical complications, as well as esthetic appreciation and overall patient satisfaction.

Peri-implantitis is an area of particular interest as it probably presents the primary cause of late implant loss. Implant loss has also become a relevant outcome in studies on the management of peri-implantitis (eg, surgical therapy), as these now include observation periods of  $\geq$  5 years.<sup>96-99</sup> The ultimate goal of such interventions is the preservation of implants/restorations. Generating data for evidence-based decision making on whether to treat or remove (implant loss) affected implants will have to be a point of emphasis in future studies.

The limited number of evaluations of consequences and patientreported outcome measures related to implant loss is conspicuous. These parameters should also be considered in future research.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the authorship and/or publication of this article.

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34

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