



# Success or Failure of Dental Implant Osseointegration: Is OsteoMacs polarization a key factor?

Richard Yang, BS; Huzefa Talib, BDS, MFDRCS, FFDRCSI (OSOM), DICOI;  
Richard J. Miron, DDS, BMSC, MSc, PhD; Thomas G. Wiedemann, MD, PhD, DDS, FEBOMFS, DICOI  
New York University - College of Dentistry



## BACKGROUND

Dental implant failure cannot always be explained by clinical risk factors. Recent literature suggests that immune cells are pivotal players in the integration of biomaterials and have a co-relationship within a set of osteal macrophages, known as OsteoMacs. These cells have been known to polarize quickly between a M1 pro-inflammatory and a M2 wound healing state during implant osseointegration. This plays a critical immune-surveillance role in the osseointegration of dental implant healing and bone homeostasis.

## OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this study is to provide an overview of the current understanding of OsteoMacs and their role in early implant failure and osseointegration.

## METHODS & MATERIAL

An electronic search was conducted from 2010 to 2020 using PubMed, Google Scholar and NYU electronic book library to identify relevant articles in English literature. Keywords were "osteomac", AND "implant" AND "failure". Four articles, 6 book chapters were selected.

## RESULTS

M1 OsteoMacs release inflammatory cytokines while M2 OsteoMacs release wound healing cytokines. M2 OsteoMacs are associated with a higher peri-implant bone volume around stable implants while M1 OsteoMacs are implicated in foreign body rejection. Biomaterials can increase M2 OsteoMac proportions through three mechanisms: (1) selective polarization of native OsteoMacs, (2) direct recruitment of native OsteoMacs with subsequent polarization and (3) direct recruitment of existing embryonic M2 OsteoMacs. Certain biomaterial properties that favor M1 OsteoMacs include smooth, hydrophobic, hydroxylated nanoparticles and bio-inductive agents while rough, porous, hydrophilic, and hydrocarbon-based nanoparticles favor M2 OsteoMacs. Vitamin D blocks pro-inflammatory cytokine release from M2 OsteoMacs and its deficiency is associated with early implant failure.

Figure 1

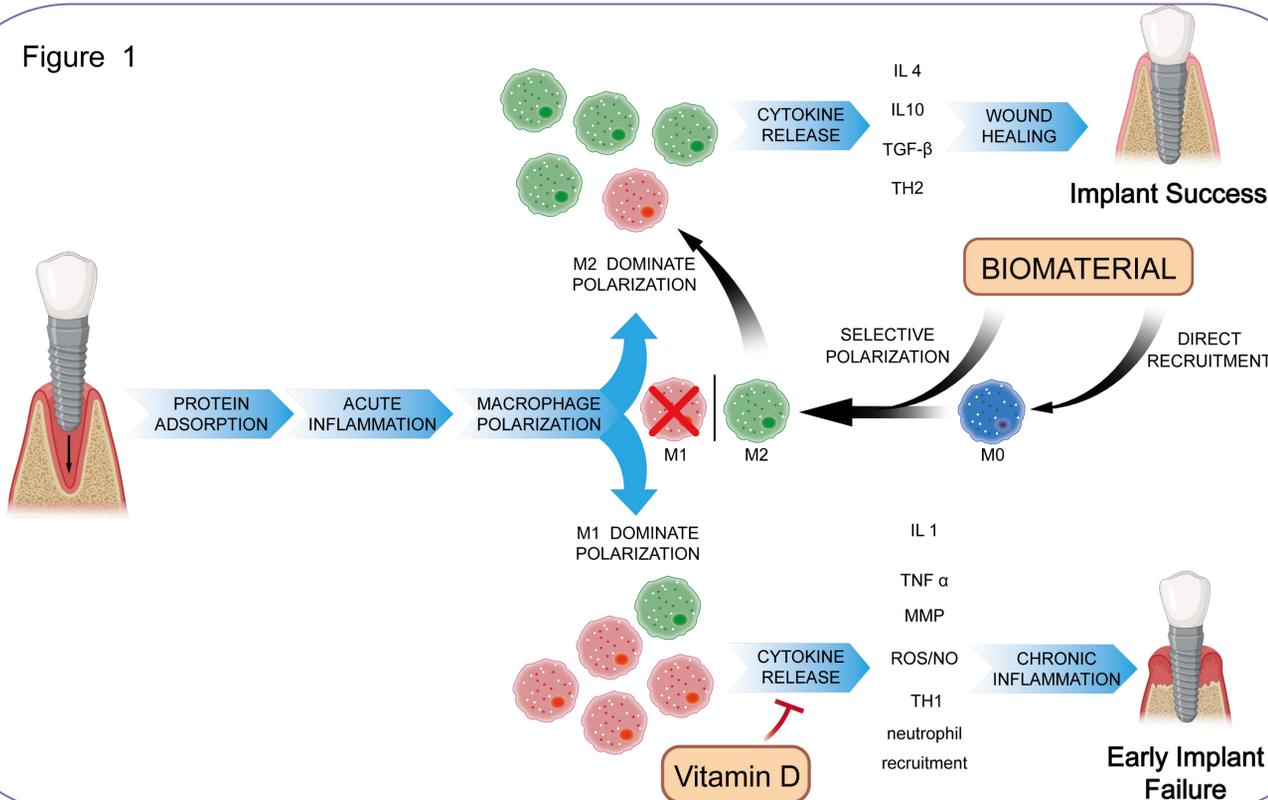


Figure 1b

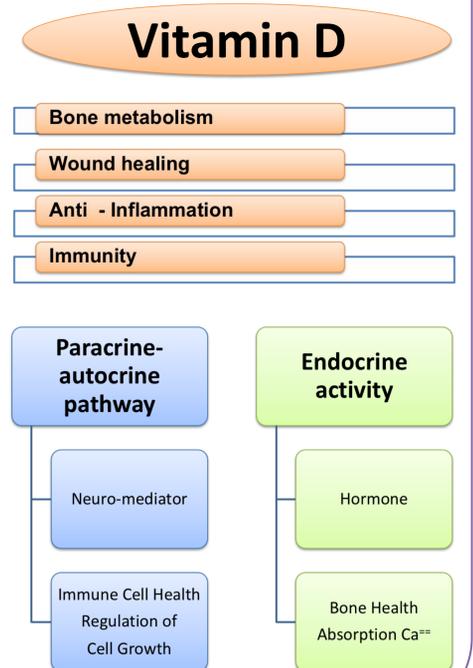


Figure 2

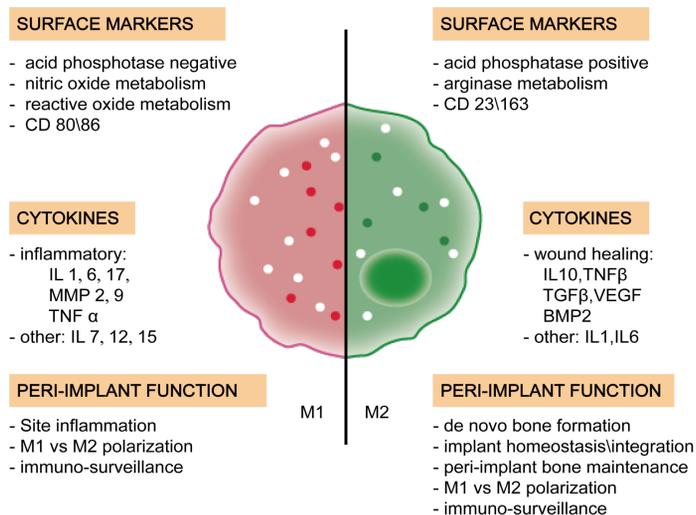
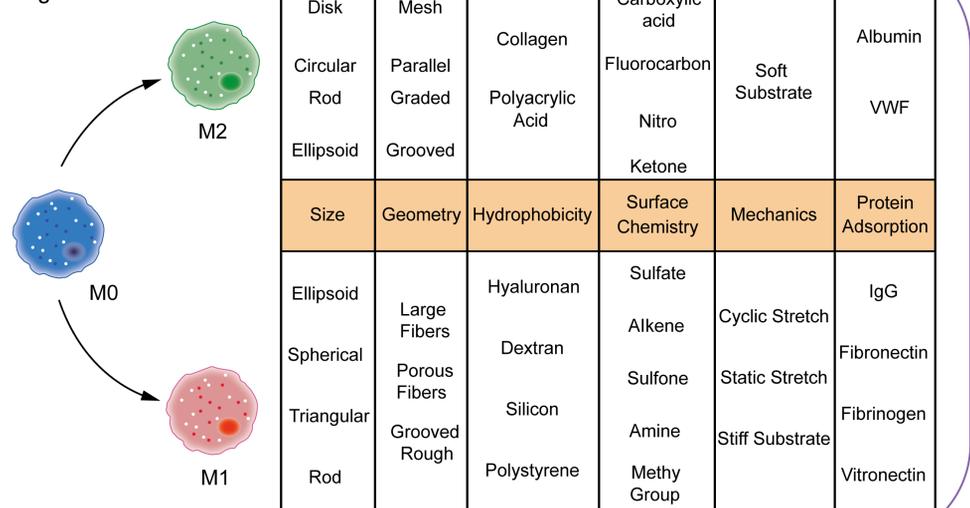


Figure 3



## CONCLUSION

The ability of OsteoMacs to polarize between different states has been widely reported. Modulation of biomaterial surface properties and immune cell health to favor a desired OsteoMac state is a viable hypothesis that can explain the biology of early phases of successful implant osseointegration but also mechanisms of early implant failure.

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