

Removable Complete and Partial Prosthodontics for the Restoration of Dental Implants

General Guidelines

Removable prosthodontics of dental implants is that part of dental practice which deals with the restoration of the dental implants by means of removable appliances. Dental implant removable prosthesis' may use any one or a combination of implant(s), teeth or tissue for support or retention.

Removable prosthetics for dental implants are indicated when the initial history, clinical examination and diagnosis reveal conditions that contraindicate replacement of missing teeth with fixed prosthetic appliances or implant retained fixed prosthetic appliances or when individual patient factors preclude fixed prosthetic or implant retained fixed prosthetic appliances.

Since many of the features of evaluation in implant retained removable prosthodontics are common to all of dental practice, they will not be discussed in detail in this section. Only those aspects that have specific importance for this area will be included.

Properly constructed, well retained restorations are usually more physiologically and psychologically acceptable to the patient. Conditions that may contraindicate restoration of dental implants with removable prosthetics are:

- Poor osseointegration of the implant(s)
- Restoration of a single tooth
- Restoration of third molars
- Excessive loss of bone prior to placement of the prosthesis
- Mobility of the implants prior to placement of the prosthesis
- Poor positioning of the implants

Materials used for implant retained removable prosthetics must be strong enough to resist distortion or breakage during normal function, non-porous, color stable, aesthetically pleasing, non-toxic and not abrasive to the opposing or supportive dentition. They must also provide stress relief to the dental implants during normal occlusal loading.

The design of the prosthesis must incorporate concern for functional stability, stress transfer from the prosthesis to the oral tissues, relief of para-functional stresses, attachment of the prosthesis to the dental implants, facilitate good oral hygiene of the implant system and the prosthesis and a strategy of removal of the implant retention system without damage to the implants, or to the remaining dentition.

The implant retention system must fit securely and passively to the implants and to the removable prosthesis, and the removable prosthesis must function passively, fit the teeth and implant retention system accurately, be well adapted to the soft tissues where applicable and provide increased masticatory function to the patient.

It is the responsibility of the restoring dentist to evaluate the initial acceptability of the implants prior to restoration.

It is the responsibility of the restoring dentist to instruct the patient in the proper care and maintenance of the implant system and to evaluate the patient's care initially following the final placement of the prosthetic.

The removable prosthesis and implant retention system can be expected to have a minimum prognosis of five years.

The following quality-evaluation criteria should be considered merely as AIDS for the discrimination between the four ratings for each characteristic. The determination of the rating of any given dental service is dependent upon the sound JUDGMENT of the peer review examiners.