



Transitioning from Teeth to Implants: A Narrative Review

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DESCRIPTION

Dental prostheses, often simply referred to as dentures, serve as remarkable marvels of modern dentistry, offering solutions for individuals who have lost one or more teeth. These prosthetic devices play a pivotal role in restoring not only oral function but also aesthetics, confidence, and overall quality of life. In this essay, we delve into the significance, types, fabrication processes, and impact of dental prostheses on patients. First and foremost, dental prostheses serve the fundamental purpose of restoring masticatory function, allowing individuals to chew food effectively and maintain proper nutrition. They also contribute significantly to speech clarity, enabling patients to communicate with confidence. Moreover, dental prostheses play a crucial role in preserving the structural integrity of the jawbone by providing support and preventing bone resorption, which can occur following tooth loss. Furthermore, they have a profound impact on facial aesthetics, restoring facial contours and enhancing smiles, thus boosting self-esteem and overall well-being. There are several types of dental prostheses tailored to meet the diverse needs of patients. Complete dentures are removable prosthetic devices designed to replace all teeth in either the upper or lower arch, or both. They consist of artificial teeth set in a pink acrylic base, which rests directly on the gums and is supported by underlying tissues. Complete dentures restore the appearance of a full set of teeth and are indispensable for individuals who have lost all their natural teeth due to decay, gum disease, or trauma. Partial dentures are removable prosthetic devices used to replace one or more missing teeth while preserving the remaining natural teeth. They typically comprise artificial teeth attached to a metal or acrylic framework that clasps onto existing teeth for support. Partial dentures restore both function and aesthetics and are ideal for patients who have lost several teeth but still retain some healthy ones. Implant-supported prostheses represent a revolutionary advancement in dental technology. These prostheses are either fixed or removable and are anchored in place by dental implants surgically placed in the jawbone. Implant-supported prostheses offer unparalleled stability, functionality, and

aesthetics compared to traditional removable dentures. They are particularly beneficial for patients with compromised bone structure or those seeking a more permanent tooth replacement solution. The fabrication process of dental prostheses involves a series of meticulous steps, beginning with a comprehensive dental examination and treatment planning. Impressions, bite registrations, and shade selections are then taken to create precise replicas of the patient's oral structures. Dental technicians craft the prosthetic devices in a dental laboratory, ensuring optimal fit, aesthetics, and functionality. Finally, the prostheses are delivered to the patient, with adjustments made as necessary to ensure comfort and proper function. The impact of dental prostheses on patients' lives is profound and multifaceted. Beyond restoring oral function and aesthetics, they play a vital role in enhancing self-esteem, social interactions, and overall quality of life. Patients who receive well-fitted and aesthetically pleasing dental prostheses often experience improved confidence and psychological well-being, enabling them to lead fulfilling and active lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, dental prostheses represent a cornerstone of modern dentistry, providing effective solutions for tooth loss and restoring oral health and function. Whether it's complete dentures, partial dentures, or implant-supported prostheses, these custom-made devices offer patients a chance to reclaim their smiles and confidence, thereby improving their overall quality of life. Through meticulous fabrication and personalized care, dental practitioners can ensure optimal outcomes for patients in need of dental prosthetic solutions.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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