

The art of prosthetics

As technicians we must look at our existing prosthetic product line and develop extensions that will increase our profitability, keeping in mind our personal productivity and performance.

A very strong tendency among today's senior citizens is to "premiumize" purchases and seek quality products, especially when those purchases involve physical appearance.



Robert Kreyer, CDT

denture services. The 10% decline in edentulism we have experienced in each of the last three decades will be more than offset by the 71% increase in senior adult population older than 55 years of age. Keep in mind, these figures do not include existing full and partial dentures that still must be remade, repaired, relined or reconstructed.

commitment to a higher level of education, service and attention to detail by the prosthetic dental technician.

In order to extend an existing laboratory product line, you must create prosthetic treatment options that include a personalized denture service. These prosthetic options must take into consideration your personal productivity, performance and profitability.

The goal is to increase productivity while performing at a higher level. This in turn will increase your profitability by consistently providing your customers with a predictable, quality product, commitment to service, and attention to details.

AGING OF AMERICA

Projections predict that the percentage of senior citizens age 50 and over will exceed 30% of the total U.S. population, ballooning from 75.5 million in 1999 to 96.2 million in 2009. The number patients needing complete dentures is predicted to swell from 33.6 million in 1991 to 37.9 million in 2020.

All this is good news for the laboratory providing

PRIME TIME

In the near future, a very favorable supply and demand ratio exists for denture technicians, particularly in light of the current shortage of complete denture prosthetic technicians and compounded by elimination of denture education in undergraduate dental school.

Domestic demand for technicians who can design and create a high-quality personalized denture continues to be high. Creating a personalized denture requires a personal

WORKING TOGETHER

Creating dentures that come alive in the oral environment requires communication within the prosthetic dental team. The clinician/technician prosthetic team must work together to create an esthetic anterior tooth arrangement that is

●●● INSPIRATION of exceptional esthetics



Fig. A Look at the transition of colors within a space and their relation with nature to create harmony with its esthetic value.



Fig. B The mandibular anterior incisors are vitally important to creating an aesthetic smile. A slight axis rotation combined with a contoured beveled translucent incisal edge gives a true appearance of nature.



Fig. C Increased opacity in the denture base with a reddish-orange interdental papillae combined with rotated anterior teeth stained with a variation of colors from cervical to incisal



Fig. F An opaque pink base with subtle contouring and very slight gingival colorization using white effect around the tight interdental area between diastemas.



Fig. G Full body papillae with a very slight blanching at gingival margins combined with reddish-brown frenum area. The anteriors are shaped and translucency is enhanced by characterization and incisal wear facets. Technician: Jurg Stuck



Fig. H This opaque pink base has a full papillae and functional contours. The anterior teeth have a variation of color from cervical to incisal and arranged for a pleasing youthful smile.



Fig. I A denture that combines esthetics and function from the colorized gingival base to personalized anterior arrangement. This base has translucency with a white blanching effect at gingival margins and interdental papillae. The anterior teeth have been characterized with stains and translucent incisal with wear facets. Technician: Reinhold Hass.

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framed by gingival contours and colors that replicate nature and one that is in harmony with the existing oral environment and facial features.

Transition of colors must be taken into consideration and the relation of space between the denture teeth, gingival margins, as well as contours when characterizing or personalizing prosthetics. Denture teeth and gingival colors will vary considerably with each patient depending on the individuals' age, skin complexion, hair color, and ethnicity.

DENTURE PROSTHETICS AT THE NEXT LEVEL

This month I wanted you to see samples of complete dentures fabricated by technicians from around the world. Provided to me by CANDULOR, in Zurich, Switzerland, this “Art of Prosthetics” gallery may inspire and help you to start thinking out of your existing denture box.

As you can see there are various esthetic enhancements that can improve the natural appearance of a complete den-

ture. Our goal is to inspire your creativity by seeing the artistic possibilities and create esthetic functional dentures.

These prosthetic photos will help us realize how esthetics, or cosmetics, in dentistry can be applied to removable prosthetic complete dentures. As we all know the esthetic or personalized product market is in great demand by consumers. In dentistry the esthetic revolution created by the demand for age defying restorations has never been so prevalent in prosthetics than it is right now.

We work in an incredible profession, one where we affect the lives of other human beings everyday. To restore the blessing of a smile and to help a person eat, speak, sing, whistle, or just laugh again in a social setting is quite rewarding.

As complete denture prosthetic technicians we are an integral part of the prosthetic dental team that works together to provide optimal care in treatment while restoring the blessings of life and confidence back to our compromised edentulous patients. **lab**



Fig. D Aesthetic gingival colored base using white intensive color for papillae and gingival margins. Slight reddish around labial frenum and increased opacity in base material creates a subtle transition in color.



Fig. E Functional contouring and colorization of gingival base with a variation of colors from papillae to periphery, note the use of red, blue and white intensive colors.



Fig. J This rugged masculine arrangement of stained anterior denture teeth creates a natural effect. The white gingival margins and papillae are offset by red to represent vascular areas.



Fig. K This colored base with gingival contours uses black, brown and blue intensive colors in base with white blanched areas. The teeth have been stained to give the beautiful chroma essence of age. An older patient with a darker complexion who desires a natural appearance reflective of their age. Technician: Dietmar Anthony.

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