

Prosthodontics Past Present and Future.....



Prosthodontics has come a long way, from ivory teeth to highly cross-linked teeth, from mere denture making to bionics, from plaster impressions to Digital impression, from laborious lab procedures to CAD-CAM and Rapid Prototyping, yet each day is bringing in its wake a new advancement, equipping the Prosthodontist with novel concepts, materials, technology and techniques for improved rehabilitation of patients. The rate of innovations in Prosthodontics has been picking up considerable momentum and products have emerged, demonstrating superb strength and high esthetics. Trends indicate a preference for metal-free restorations, as the offerings of zirconia products have become more nuanced. Also, innovative scanning systems provide dental teams a greater flexibility and enhanced productivity.

The integration of materials and digital technologies has facilitated enormous advancements in fixed and removable Prosthodontics. This synergistic combination has helped the specialty evolve to provide both the clinician and dental laboratory technician with enhanced prostheses possessing an increased clinical reliability while enabling fabrication with increased efficiency, reduced fabrication times, and better economy. This is all while providing greater precision and a superior restoration for the patient. Who knows, the future of Prosthodontic rehabilitation may have tooth regeneration in store.

With the paradigm shift from removable to fixed and ultimately “integrated” or implant based Prosthodontic rehabilitation; one must remember that current trends cannot be the answer to every clinical situation. Removable Prosthodontics can never be a thing of the past. It is an inseparable part of Prosthodontic rehabilitation that we must carry into the future, with all possible additions, advancements and expansions. As we usher in an era of fixed and integrated Prosthodontics, an era of digitalization and nanotechnology an even brighter future awaits us.

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