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Editorial

Prosthetic Solutions Standards for Edentulous Patients: I-Analyze of Patients Requests

Wael M Zakaria*

Prosthetic Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, Qassim University, Saudi Arabia

*Corresponding Author: Wael M Zakaria, Prosthetic Dental Sciences, College of Dentistry, Qassim University, Saudi Arabia.

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Tooth loss greatly affects the quality of life. It causes speech, appearance, and chewing disorder, as well as social disability. It also has a detrimental effect on the psychological state of the patient. Many conditions contribute to edentulism, such as caries and periodontal infections, which are known to be the major causes of dental loss. Other considerations, such as quality of oral health facilities, socio-economic status, educational level, smoking, location of employment and frequency of dental appointments have also a big role.

Edentulism has been shown to be more in old age, which may be due to physical limitations that may arise in old age. In addition, the prevalence of general and dental diseases also increases with age, leading to edentulism.

It is essential to analyze patient needs in order to deliver appropriate care and achieve patient satisfaction. This standard usually falls into one or more of four categories: function, comfort, esthetics and quality of life. Beyond these categories, an evaluation should be made to additional treatment management impacts as the interest in complete denture or fixed rehabilitation, the tolerance of surgical procedures or the preference of nonsurgical solutions.

Fulfilling patient desires effectively is the most significant measure of patient satisfaction. The prosthodontist should consider how the patient demonstrates his needs during the first conversation and how the patient changes his desires after hearing what can and cannot be done by various solutions. During demonstrating the treatment alternatives and main factors relevant to each alternative, some points must be declared as feasibility, periodic recall, care, cost, patient time, effort, threads and hazards.

The prosthodontist must not enforce his opinions, but must match with the patient's needs, taking into consideration systemic and local diseases, age, occupation and social status. The closer the suggested plan to the patient's need, the better the patient is instructed about the various sequences and outcome of the treatment with suspected good results. Effort and time should be spent on communicating with the patient, providing clear clarification before going any further. Photos, models, animations and videos are valuable illustrative complements.

The patient should realize that the procedure is not considered finalized with the insertion of the prosthesis. The post insertion care sessions are an important part in the succeeded plan.

Conclusion

The prosthetic treatment alternatives should not be enforced, but should be modified according to patient desires, preferences and financial status. The prosthodontist must be aware not to raise the expectations of the treatment alternatives.

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