

PROSTHODONTICS

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Updated complete denture treatment

Alessandro Ielasi

Italian Academy of Prosthetic dentistry, Italy

Tooth loss is still a chronic and debilitating condition for many patients, especially for the elderly. Edentulism has consequences such as reduction of the lower third of the face, decrease of vertical dimension, loss or reduction of masticatory movement, poor aesthetics, and phonetic problems. Dietary restrictions and difficulty to eat certain foods are also mentioned by edentulous patients. Those alterations can impact oral health-related quality of life (ohrqol) and compromise the psychosocial behavior of the individual. Osseointegrated implants have been used as a treatment for dental loss with high success rates. However, this treatment modality is not available for all patients due to general health, cost, and/or anatomical problems. Many patients still refuse the implant treatment because of the surgical procedures especially when they had previous bad experiences. In those cases, complete dentures are still the treatment of choice and they can provide a comfortable and customized aesthetic solution. The lower stability and retention can be improved especially when the lower denture is obtained using the neutral zone and static teeth arrangement principles.

alessandroielasi@gmail.com