



Treatment modalities for partially edentulous

The theme for the forthcoming 35th IPS conference to be held in New Delhi - "Treatment modalities for partially edentulous" is befitting for the present time and scenario in prosthodontics. Today's patients are indeed fortunate, as wide range of treatment options are available to them. Research and innovations have helped in the evolution of materials techniques and methodologies that can be applied to a given situation. In fact, prosthodontics has never been so very exciting and challenging as it is today.

Changes in demographic pattern and the patient demands have also had an effect on our practice. Both increase in life expectancy and also the "feel young" syndrome that has caught up the world, have patients emphasizing on cosmetic care. With people living longer and staying more active, prosthodontics is facing unprecedented challenges. Planned partials and treatment partials were commonly used modalities of treatment. They are indeed the classic example of tertiary prevention that prosthodontics can offer. However, it is the patient demands that have forced the researches and clinicians to be innovative and shift from the traditional removable prosthodontics to fixed prosthodontics and implant dentistry.

The demand for implants as not only due to commercial pressure but also due to the fact that the patients see a ray of hope in them as the third dentition. More and more implants are being placed today and their number would only be increasing in the future. The

prosthodontists should keep the end in mind and should be able to predict the treatment outcome on loading of these implants.

In rehabilitating partially edentulous patient the care and maintaining of abutments and remaining structures are as important as the prosthesis. It is not unusual that we come across structurally compromised teeth and even dentitions. All efforts need to be focused on protecting the abutments and avoid failure of the prosthodontic treatment. The advances in ceramics and the CAD CAM systems are changing at a violent speed. The importance of a good lab back up cannot be underestimated. In fact, there is a clear shift from material science to biomedical science. 'Grow new tooth' is the new buzzword that has prompted the researchers towards tissue engineering. In this fast moving world, we all want faster and better results hence; it is not surprising that the research and development is concentrated on faster osseointegration and loading. So in which direction is the modalities of treatment of partially edentulous moving? When would the technology come as reality for the test tube teeth? We can't wait to get these answers as, though we want quality, we want it faster - Just now! Immediately!!

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