

GUEST EDITORIAL

FULL MOUTH REHABILITATION : THE ENIGMA CONTINUES



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Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes'

Treating a case of full mouth rehabilitation has remained a challenge till date. Dentistry and Prosthodontics per se has witnessed many advancements in terms of material science, technology and treatment procedures. What has not evolved is the thought process of application of these newer methods and technology.

Any treatment procedure performed on a patient is not a straightforward mathematical calculation which can be implemented in a specified manner. Clinical processes, especially a case of full mouth rehabilitation requires comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the stomatognathic system.

The word REHABILITATION in itself conveys

responsibility. A lot is involved at both the ends- the receiver (Patient) and the donor (the rehabilitation specialist). The Oxford dictionary defines rehabilitation as 'The action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness.' It is a great responsibility on a restoring dentist to bring the abnormal and compromised oral functions back on track.

The multidisciplinary dimension of the treatment can't be ignored. Although the culmination of an elaborate treatment is by a restoring specialist which happens to be a prosthodontist most of the time, other specialists such as endodontist, periodontist, oral surgeon, orthodontist and an oral radiologist play a significant role throughout the planning and execution. It is advisable to seek expert opinion and include specialty procedures whenever deemed necessary.

As an academician, when I see post graduate students approaching a case of full mouth rehabilitation, I find them lost in the web of information, standing at a crossroad, unsure of the planning and execution. Although, literature review provides us information on certain philosophies, strategies and methodology of treating a case of full mouth rehabilitation, the students take up a novel approach. If they are left to plan an unguided case, few published case reports are referred and a KHICHDI of plan is formulated and presented without understanding the WHAT, WHEN, WHY and HOW ! Hence a 360° knowledge of complete stomatognathic system and restorative science is must as a post graduate student so that such treatments are rendered effectively at the practice level independently.

Comprehensive treatment of the patient with a visualization of final result to improve the oral and general health, masticatory function and esthetics must be the ultimate goal.

Change can either challenge or threaten us. Your beliefs pave your way to success or block you. : - MARSHA SINETAR