

Adjuvant therapy for intra oral surgical oncological defect with ancillary prosthesis: A literature review

ABSTRACT

The role of a maxillofacial prosthodontist in the treatment of facial defects cannot be underestimated. A multidisciplinary approach is required during the rehabilitation procedure to bring out effective results. Ancillary maxillofacial prostheses limit the patient's disability and improve function. These prostheses are inevitable in restoring the function, esthetics, general, and psychological health of the patients. This article reviews the various ancillary-maxillofacial prostheses and throws light on their historical development.

KEY WORDS: Ancillary prosthesis, maxillofacial prostheses, maxillofacial prosthodontist

INTRODUCTION

Maxillofacial prosthetics is a subspecialty of prosthetic dentistry which deals with the replacement/restoration of stomatognathic and craniofacial structures with removable or fixed prosthesis. As a critical member of any large medical center team, the maxillofacial prosthodontist is involved not only in diagnostic examination, restoration and maintenance of oral function, comfort, esthetics, and health of patients who are undergoing chemo and radiation therapies, but also is involved in the rehabilitation of acquired and developmental defects through prosthetic repair. Utilizing knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and dental materials a dentist can provide innovative prosthetic aids that will contribute to the comprehensive management of the patient. Ancillary prostheses can be fabricated by the dental clinician to facilitate treatment and rehabilitation of patients with various functional and anatomical deficiencies.

HISTORY OF MAXILLOFACIAL PROSTHETICS

The exact origin of maxillofacial prosthetics seems to be unclear but it can be traced back to the times of Etruscan and the Egyptian civilizations. Evidences from mummies suggest that artificial eyes were used by the Egyptians. Ancient Chinese and Indians were known to use artificial nose and eyes. Alexander Petronius during the 16th century

developed obturators using wax, cotton wool, or oakum to treat patients with bullet wounds.^[5]

One of the first writings on maxillofacial prosthesis was by Sir Ambrose Pare in 1530 AD, who was often referred to as the "father of modern surgery." Maxillary obturator using sponge was one of the earliest contributions of Pare. A dried sponge was attached to the upper surface of obturator which absorbed moisture from the secretions and expanded intra orally to retain the prosthesis.^[6] His other contributions include artificial nose, eyes, and ears. He advocated the use of prosthetic nose made of silver which was attached to the face by means of strings and the junction of the attachment masked by a mustache.^[7]

Sir Pierre Fauchard, commonly known as the "father of modern dentistry" also made contributions to maxillofacial prosthesis. He along with a French surgeon and a silversmith fabricated an extensive facial prosthesis replacing the entire lower half of the face. This was worn by a French military man who later came to be known as "gunner with the silver mask."^[8]

A Danish astronomer named Tycho Brache was well known for his artificial nose which he fabricated

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