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Esthetic and functional decisions in implant prosthodontics before the placement of implants in the maxillary edentulous arch

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Implant treatment for the maxillary edentulous patient is challenging due to inherent anatomic esthetic and biomechanical problems. Moreover, controversy persists as to factors critical for implant and prosthetic success. With the presentation of many clinical situations, this lecture examines 6 critical factors that direct the type of dental prostheses, early in the consultation process which includes: The nature of the patient's dental condition, whether the residual ridge is visible in both the relaxed lip and smiling state, the availability of adequate interarch space for the indicated type of prostheses, the need or not of a labial flange, the presence or the absence of bone in 3 radiographic zones and how many implants are needed.

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Oral disease-dental anxiety-brain-immune connections

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Dental professionals have made remarkable progress on the better understanding of oral diseases and the more developed clinical technology for the prevention and treatment of it. However, anxiety of visiting dentist has been considered a factor beyond the capability of dentist to control over. Nevertheless, it was evidenced that dental anxiety is a powerful underlying factor determining the prevalence and prognosis of oral diseases. Deteriorated chewing function is closely linked with the diminished food choice that is one of the strongest environmental challenges to the survival of humans. Change of social activity due to the unacceptable aesthetic as well as speaking function of oral system is a critical challenge to humans, the very complicatedly net-worked social beings. Amygdala, a brain region specializing in facial recognition, displays exaggerated responses to the unfamiliar face of dentist that is processed as an attacker to threaten the security and safety. Directly, psychosocial stress due to the deteriorated daily function of oral system can increase the pro-inflammatory level of cytokine IL-6. As an indirect pathway, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA) is activated by the stress. Key hormone secreted by adrenal gland such as cortisol acts on immune cells and suppresses the immune systems, which aggravates the already present oral diseases. The vicious cycle can be interrupted by changing amygdala's process of the unfamiliar face of dentist. Based on the fact that seeing fearful or angry or unfamiliar face invoke stress reactivity in the amygdala results in avoidance of dental utilization, solutions for patient's avoidance behavior can be inferred.

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