Prosthetic Treatment of a Patient with Maxillary Defect

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Abstract: Introduction: Prosthetic methods of treatment are of prime importance in complex treatment and rehabilitation in patients with maxillary resection. Aim: the aim of this clinical case description is to present the prosthetic rehabilitation with post-resection partial prosthesis in a patient with maxillary resection and the possibility for restoration of occlusal relationships. Material and methods: The described clinical case follows the prosthetic rehabilitation of a 62-year old patient, operated on the occasion of osteoblastoclastoma of the upper jaw. The treatment plan included closing of the passage defect in the traditional way, by fabricating a post-resection prosthesis from Meliodent HC - a heat-polymerizing acrylic plastic with low residual monomer content. For objectifying and assessing the achieved occlusion-articulation relationships, a computerized occlusal analysis was performed with the T-SCAN 8 system. Results: The results of the conducted prosthetic rehabilitation showed good retention and stability of the prosthesis. Optimal defect hermetization was achieved, with a stable barrier between the oral and the nasal cavity, which helped to restore speech and masticatory function and facilitate swallowing. Conclusions: Prosthetic rehabilitation methods for patients with maxillary defects ensure successful recovery of occlusal relationships.

Keywords: maxillary defect, maxillary resection, obturator, post-resection prosthesis, T SCAN

1. Introduction

Prosthetic treatment methods are the main means for restoration and rehabilitation of patients with maxillary resection [1, 2]. The most commonly used is the three-stage treatment scheme, applying surgical, temporary and definitive obturators, fabricated over different time intervals after the resection [3, 4]. It is believed that this rehabilitation approach allows optimal recovery of patients’ nutrition, speech, breathing and aesthetics and provides an acceptable quality of life [5, 6]. Mihaylov et al. [7] considered that optimal treatment results are achieved when implementing a four-stage method for treatment and rehabilitation. The "maintaining prosthetic treatment", designated as the fourth stage, includes systematic care after completion of the prosthetic treatment, as well as replacement and rationalization of prosthetic structures, adequate to the changes in the dental status and prosthetic field over the time. Maxillofacial defects after maxillary resection cause serious nutrition disorders and therefore, restoration of masticatory function is the main goal of prosthetic treatment [8, 9].

The literature describes numerous studies of masticatory function in patients with obturators [10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]. Most of them examine the changes in masticatory efficiency and occlusal force after treatment [11, 13, 16, 17]. According to Matsuyama et al. [11], masticatory efficiency after obturator prosthesis is comparable to that in young people, although less occlusal force is measured. Ono et al. [13], however, believe that it is close to that in healthy subjects. Krefft et al. [16] determine masticatory efficiency as similar to that in patients with complete dentures, which, however, is not confirmed by the results of Reitemeier et al. [18], who found less masticatory efficiency. The opinions of the factors influencing masticatory function are also controversial. According to some of them [10, 13, 18], these factors include the size, location of the defect and the presence of teeth [16], while other authors believe that the size of the defect does not affect masticatory function, but the presence of natural teeth facilitates nutrition.

2. Aim

The aim of this clinical case description is to present the prosthetic rehabilitation with post-resection partial prosthesis in a patient with maxillary resection and the possibility for restoration of occlusal relationships.

3. Material and Methods

The described clinical case follows the prosthetic rehabilitation of a 62-year old patient, operated on the occasion of osteoblastoclastoma of the upper jaw. During the examination we found a unilateral passage defect in the region of the upper right alveolar ridge and partial edentulism of the upper jaw with preserved 21, 22 and 23 teeth (Figure 1) and intact dentition of the lower jaw.

The treatment plan included closing of the passage defect in the traditional way, by fabricating a post-resection prosthesis. The impressions were taken with standard trays and irreversible hydrocolloid impression material after tamponing the defect with gauze. In the next clinical stage, the occlusion height was determined and the central position of the lower jaw was fixed. After successful testing with the arranged teeth, the prosthesis was fabricated from Meliodent HC (Herneus Kulzer) - a heat-polymerizing acrylic plastic with low residual monomer content. Due to the relatively small size of the defect, the post-resection prosthesis was made with a solid substituting part (Figure 2). The finished prosthesis was adjusted and articulated in the patient’s mouth in the final clinical stage (Figure 3).
Facilitating the prosthetic treatment helped to restore the patient’s aesthetic appearance, self-esteem and social activity.

5. Discussion

The presented clinical case confirms the results of some studies [1, 2, 5, 6], according to which, prosthetic treatment of maxillary defects allows to successfully restore impaired functions and protects patients from permanent desocialization. The obtained results can be assessed as optimal, since the achievement of a balanced occlusion, with occlusal forces symmetrically distributed by location and size in the central occlusion of patients with post-resection prosthesis, is frequently aspirational. This should be the prosthodontist’s target in the entire treatment planning. However, crucial factors, such as abnormal anatomy of the prosthetic field, pliability of mucous membranes in the different areas, lack of adequate bone base in the area of the defect, should be taken into account. Last but not least is the patient’s willingness to fully cooperate in carrying out the treatment. Usually, patients’ wishes are related only to closing the defect and restoring masticatory and speech functions. All this gives us the reason to interpret the results of the occlusal analysis as satisfactory, taking into account the impossibility to achieve progressive increases of the distally directed occlusal forces in the lateral sections of this clinical case.

6. Conclusions

The applied method of prosthetic treatment allowed successful defect hermetization and helped to restore the normal parameters of the functional (nutrition and speech) and psycho-social status of the patient.

References


of dental Medicine (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahn- Mund- und Kieferheilkunde - DGZMK), and of the German workgroup on functional diagnostics and treatment (Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Funktionsdiagnostik und Therapie – AFDT at DGZMK), member of the European Academy of Craniomandibular Disorders (EACD).