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Current state of digital dentistry: digital dentures and their properties

Digital technologies offer the opportunity to integrate facial scans into the design of digital dentures and provide a 3D preview and simulation of the tooth arrangement for treatment planning. The conventional fabrication methods are, error-prone, time-consuming, complex, and expensive procedures. Removable partial dentures(RPD) and Complete dentures(CD) fabricated by computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD-CAM) techniques have become popular. Therefore, we reviewed the treatment outcomes of concepts used for implant-supported overdentures, RPDs and CDs.

Method and Materials: An effective search of the literature was done, mainly through pubmed and Google Scholar with ("CAD-CAM" and "dentures" or "Digital" or "RPD") as keywords. We found 42 published studies from 2003 to 2020. According to the research methods 21 articles were chosen.

Results: Digital dentures can be fabricated digital or combined analog-digital while using intraoral scanners or extraoral scanners. Milling and rapid prototyping (3D printing), have been widely used in the fabrication of dentures. They have been reported to have clinically acceptable results. Digital dentures were evaluated by their accuracy, patients satisfaction, outcomes and their procedures. CAD/CAM dentures have several advantages such as reducing clinical chair time and the number of visits, digital archiving, significantly higher retention, and more favorable clinical and patient-centered, less denture tooth movement, increased toughness, ideal flexural strength, and higher elastic modulus. CAD/CAM dentures showed at least comparable accuracy. However, disadvantages such as high cost, software errors, and lack of jaw relations in functional state, are still the problem.

Conclusions: CAD/CAM dentures had better clinical outcomes than conventional dentures. Although, there are some limitations in the manufacturing procedures. Results of studies suggest there is a great potential for further investigations. Keywords: CAD/CAM complete dentures; Digital complete dentures; removable partial denture.

Biography

Rata Rokhshad is a 6th year dental student at Tehran medical sciences, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran. She has been working in a digital dental office and a digital dental lab. She has published papers in dental journals. she has presented several poster presentation and oral lectures in different dental congress.



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