

TREATMENT PLANNING OF THE EDENTULOUS MANDIBLE AND MAXILLA FIXED VS REMOVABLE IMPLANT PROSTHESIS

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The original tenet of osseointegration was to provide patients with a fixed prosthesis. This was the treatment of choice, the state of the art. However, since this time, numerous studies have demonstrated that removable implant prosthesis can be a simple and equally effective treatment option with a high level of implant success, prosthesis survival and patient satisfaction. So there has been an evolution of options and accordingly, these choices have led to a great deal of confusion. This evidence-based presentation will review the difficult and complex aspect of the **decision making process** with a step-by-step approach and specific guidelines to determine fixed vs removable. We will discuss general design considerations for fixed vs removable, to discuss factors needed to consider the number of implants, the surgical goals of implant placement and position, and when and where to utilize splinted and unsplinted designs. To clearly differentiate advantages and disadvantages of each prosthesis and to discuss long-term predictability, patient satisfaction and maintenance considerations will be discussed. In addition, we will introduce the **concept of the “confirmation letter”** which is a medicolegal document that should be considered a standard aspect of patient treatment.

This topic will be presented in two separate sessions with Part I - Mandible taking place on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. Part II – Maxilla will take place on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. These seminars will be presented as a “live” webinar.