Acta Scientific Dental Sciences (ISSN: 2581-4893)

Volume 2 Issue 10 October 2018

Opinion

Characterized Denture Base for Implant-Supported Full-Arch Prosthesis. An Option to Improve the Aesthetic Outcome

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Received: August 21, 2018; **Published:** September 07, 2018

The instability of complete dentures caused by the resorption of alveolar bone after dental extraction results in the failure of the rehabilitation. In this context, the use of the dental implants to retain the dental prosthesis has been related to increase of the satisfaction of the patient by improvement of the retention, masticatory efficiency [1].

The selection and arrangement of the tooth performed properly associated to characterized denture base has been reported as the key to achieve an aesthetic outcome of excellence [2]. According to glossary of prosthodontic terms, characterized denture base is defined as a denture base with coloring that simulates the color and shading of natural oral tissues [3]. In this context, the literature reports several methods to perform the characterized denture base and, basically, it may be divided in the internal surface staining and the external surface staining of the denture base [4]. In the first one, the staining of different colors is incorporated into the resin material during the packing of the denture [4]. In the last one, the resin is stained on its outermost surface after the processing of the denture [4]. Unfortunately, there are few reports in the literature about the characterized denture base for implant-supported full-arch prosthesis.

The difference in the aesthetic outcome in the denture base of implant-supported full-arch prosthesis may be seen in the figures 1A and 1B. Although both show an acceptable appearance, the dental prosthesis with characterized denture base are more satisfactory.

Figure 1: Intraoral view of Implant-supported full-arch prostheses A: Implant-supported full-arch prostheses with characterized denture base; B: Maxillary complete denture and implant-supported full-arch mandibular prosthesis without characterized denture base.

Unfortunately, characterized denture base has been not widely accepted or performed by prosthodontist [5]. However, many patients have reported the importance on denture esthetics and denture "gum" appearance, and many are also interested in denture base characterization [5]. Thus, we would like to highlight the importance of the application of this technique in implant-supported full-arch prosthesis in order to improve the aesthetic outcome of the treatment and, consequently, improve the patient's satisfaction.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Volume 2 Issue 10 October 2018
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