

NEW TRENDS IN PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION IN PATIENTS WITH ATROPHIC DENTURE BEARING AREA

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Introduction. Higher living standards induce more patients to seek for modern treatment methods, including implant-prosthetic treatment. Partial loss of teeth, and especially edentulousness, significantly reduces the life quality of patients. The standard treatment for edentulous patients involves complete removable dentures, which is associated with some limitations, especially when the denture bearing area is atrophic.

Modern dental implantology offers alternative treatment, i.e., the implant overdenture. Implants provide solid anchors for the prosthesis and, consequently, improve the quality of daily functioning.

Aim. To present a case report, discussing treatment stages step by step.

Materials and methods. The clinical procedure is described utilizing the example of a 56-year old female patient who needed assistance in designing prosthetic reconstruction.

Results and discussion. The intraoral examination showed a significant atrophy of the denture bearing area and residual teeth qualified for extraction. Implant-prosthetic therapy was planned involving the placement of implants in the mental area. During one procedure, along with the sanitation of the oral cavity, implants were inserted in teeth positions numbered 33, 32, 42, and 43. After a 3-month osseointegration period, the implants were connected with the lower denture by means of the Locator Implant Attachment System – an alternative to the classic ball attachment. Both the functional and esthetic outcomes were accepted by the patient as fully satisfactory.

Conclusions. The implant-prosthetic treatment offers dentures which improve a patient's quality of life. This type of treatment is frequently the only alternative for edentulous patients with significantly atrophic denture bearing areas.