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Influence of Implant Position on Occlusal Distribution in Implant-Assisted Distal Extension Removable Partial Dentures using T-Scan system

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Submitted by Al-Insan Ismail Mohammed

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Faculty of Dentistry Ain Shams University 2022

Supervised by

Prof. Dr. Ingy Amin Talaat

Professor of Removable Prosthodontics
Prosthodontic Department
Faculty of Dentistry
Ain Shams University

Dr. Yasmine Galaleldin Thabet

Associate Professor of Prosthodontics

Prosthodontic Department

Faculty of Dentistry

Ain Shams University

Dr. Mohamed Shady Nabhan

Associate Professor of Prosthodontics

Prosthodontic Department

Faculty of Dentistry

Ain Shams University



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Introduction

Removable partial denture (RPD) is an essential prosthetic consideration in many oral reconstructions, especially upon restoring edentulous ridges posterior to a patient's remaining teeth. A wide range of prosthetic treatment options including simple conventional removable partial denture, over denture, fixed partial denture or implant assisted removable partial dentures can be used for rehabilitation of partially edentulous patients.⁽¹⁾

Most of the problems in distal extension cases are attributed to disparity of support, and the difference in the (viscoelastic response) (elastic behavior) of supporting structures, the abutment teeth and the ridge to loading. Consequently, when functional load is applied to the removable partial denture with distal extension base, this difference in support results in rotation of the denture and heavy torsion stresses on the abutment teeth and traumatization of the ridge. (2)

Several techniques have been introduced to provide proper load distribution and to control the harmful stresses of RPD, among which is using an osseointegrated implant as a posterior abutment. Implant location depends primarily on the dimensions of the residual ridge. Theoretically, the implants should be located as distally as possible to provide maximal support and stability and modify unfavorable arch configurations.⁽³⁾

Implant assisted removable partial dentures RPDs provide considerable advantages over conventional RPDs. Implants are used to improve the removable partial denture support, enhance retention and

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stability, preserve the residual ridge underneath the denture base and to reduce the stress applied on the abutment teeth. The use of a posterior implant underneath a removable partial denture, can help establish stable occlusal support which might prevent bone remodeling in the TMJ, as well as, the residual ridge resorption.⁽⁴⁾

However, dental implants may deteriorate under excursive overload and higher bite forces, eventually leading to bone loss and implant failure. Therefore, assessment of the occlusion is of utmost importance to relief these occlusal issues.⁽⁵⁾

Recently, computer-guided occlusal adjustments using T Scan occlusal analysis system is employed to alter a poorly contacting tooth sequence into multiple equal-intensity contacts occurring throughout the arches bilaterally. ⁽⁶⁾

The T Scan III is an occlusal analysis system that records occlusal contact force distribution from the first tooth contact till maximum intercuspal position. It readily identifies the very first contact point that precedes numerous other contact points that occur during maxillamandibular functional movements. The T-Scan III determines the contact time-sequencing, and the percentage of relative occlusal force between various occlusal contacts, and then displays them all for dynamic analysis.⁽⁷⁾

T-Scan III analyzes the order of the occlusal contacts while simultaneously measuring the force percentage changes of those same contacts, from the moment the teeth first begin making occlusal contact,