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Advancements in Prosthodontics: Enhancing Clinical Practice and Patient Outcomes

Ashish Pandey[1,*], Dhruv Sureja[2], Shashank Kaldate[2]

[1]*Sr Prof & Head, Department of Prosthodontics, Daswani Dental College, Kota, Rajasthan*

[2]*MDS Student, Daswani Dental College, Kota, Rajasthan*

ABSTRACT

Prosthodontics, a specialized field in dentistry focusing on tooth restoration and replacement, has witnessed significant advancements in recent years. This review provides an overview of key developments in digital dentistry, materials science, implantology, esthetic prosthodontics, edentulism management, temporomandibular disorder (TMD) treatment, interdisciplinary approaches, patient-centered care, sustainability, artificial intelligence (AI), teledentistry, splint therapy, and cultural/socioeconomic influences. The article aims to highlight the clinical relevance of these advancements and their impact on improving patient outcomes and dental practice efficiency.

INTRODUCTION

Prosthodontics plays a critical role in restoring oral function and esthetics for patients with missing teeth or dental defects. Recent advancements in technology and treatment modalities have revolutionized prosthodontic care, leading to enhanced clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction. This article provides a comprehensive review of these advancements, emphasizing their practical implications for prosthodontic practice.

Digital Dentistry Innovations

Digital dentistry has transformed prosthodontics by enabling precise treatment planning and fabrication of prosthetic restorations. Technologies such as intraoral scanners, computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) systems, and 3D printing have improved the accuracy and efficiency of prosthodontic procedures. This section discusses the clinical benefits of digital workflows and their impact on treatment outcomes.

Materials Science Breakthroughs

Advancements in materials science have expanded the range of options for dental restorations, offering durable and esthetically pleasing solutions. From high-strength ceramics to bioactive composites, prosthodontists now have a wide array of materials to choose from. This section explores the properties and indications of these materials, emphasizing their clinical relevance.

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***Corresponding Author**

Ashish Pandey

Daswani Dental College, Kota, Rajasthan, India; Tel: +918853582863;

Email: ashishpande26@yahoo.co.in

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Implantology Advancements

Implant dentistry continues to evolve with innovations in implant design and osseointegration techniques. Immediate loading protocols, guided implant placement, and digital planning tools have improved the predictability and success rates of implant-supported prostheses. This section reviews the latest trends in implantology and their impact on prosthodontic practice.

Esthetic Prosthodontics

Esthetic considerations are paramount in modern prosthodontics, with patients seeking natural-looking restorations. Advances in color matching, digital smile design, and minimally invasive techniques have enhanced esthetic outcomes. This section discusses the principles of smile design and soft tissue management in achieving lifelike esthetics.

Edentulism Management

The management of edentulous patients has been transformed by implant-supported prostheses and digital denture workflows. This section explores treatment options for edentulism and considerations for treatment planning and patient satisfaction.

Temporomandibular Disorder (TMD) Treatment Modalities

Prosthodontics plays a role in the comprehensive management of TMDs, with splint therapy and occlusal adjustments used to alleviate symptoms. This section discusses the evolution of splint therapy and its role in TMD therapy.

Interdisciplinary Approaches

Collaboration with other dental specialties enhances treatment outcomes in prosthodontics. This section highlights collaborative approaches in complex cases and the benefits of interdisciplinar

A patient-centered approach is essential in prosthodontic practice. Strategies for improving patient communication, informed consent, and post-operative care are discussed in this section.

Sustainability Considerations

The environmental impact of prosthodontic materials is gaining attention. This section explores sustainable dentistry initiatives and eco-friendly materials.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications

AI technologies are increasingly integrated into prosthodontic workflows, offering automated diagnosis and treatment planning assistance. This section discusses AI applications in radiographic interpretation and CAD/CAM design algorithms.

Teledentistry Impacts:

Teledentistry platforms have expanded access to prosthodontic care. Benefits and challenges of teledentistry are discussed in this section.

Splint Therapy Evolution

Splint therapy remains important in prosthodontics. This section explores the evolution of splint designs and their role in occlusal stabilization.

CULTURAL/SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCES

Cultural and socioeconomic factors influence prosthodontic care. This section examines their impact on treatment decisions and access to care.

CONCLUSION

Advancements in prosthodontics have improved patient outcomes and dental practice efficiency. Embracing these advancements can lead to enhanced clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction.

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