

COMMENTARY

USE OF THE ROTATIONAL PATH RPD CONCEPT IN A KENNEDY CLASS II PATIENT: A CASE REPORT

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This is another classical article by Dr. Donovan on the use of rotational path removable partial dentures (RPDs) to achieve esthetics.

This short and concise article describes a novel technique and use for rotational path RPDs. There is only one article previous to this in the prosthodontics literature that describes the use of a rotational path RPD for a patient with a Kennedy II classification. This will be a great addition and source of reference for treatment when dental implants are not indicated. There still remains a group of patients that, for medical, psychologic, and financial reasons, are poor candidates for fixed prosthodontics. These patients can be restored to function with the use of RPDs. The rotational path RPD has the added advantage that it can restore esthetics as well as function. This type of prosthesis can effectively eliminate a visible buccal clasp arm and engage undercuts to maintain retention. This is only possible with meticulous attention to detail, which is so nicely demonstrated in this article.

Dr. Donovan's description of how the definitive treatment plan was derived is excellent. Risk to benefit analysis for the treatment plan has been clearly addressed and discussed with the patient.

The true value of the treatment provided for this patient is in its simplicity. The conservative approach to tooth preparation with no tooth reduction at all, minimal cost and number of visits for the patient, and excellent treatment planning in suboptimal circumstances, has resulted in a functional and esthetically pleasing result.

In the event of failure due to caries related to dry mouth, the patient has the option to stop wearing the prosthesis without further damage to the dentition.

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