

COMMENTARY

Esthetic and Functional Rehabilitation of a Bilateral Cleft Palate Patient with Fixed Prosthodontic Therapy¹

RUTH APONTE-WESSON, DDS, MS*

The author has prepared a well-documented case report of a nonrepaired bilateral cleft palate patient and its prosthetic implications.^{1,2}

Although it is true that this patient population has to have a series of treatments for their palatal repair, as well as a long life of prosthodontic treatments, some patients do not have the opportunity to undergo the repair process.^{3–5} Unrepaired clefts pose different restorative challenges as shown here.^{1,2} Throughout the article, one can follow how these were addressed.

This article depicts careful diagnosis and treatment planning. The treatment execution is shown in a step-by-step fashion, with detailed description of procedures. For example, the fabrication of the new fixed dental prosthesis was shown as segmental casting and joined intraorally according to the patient's physiological comfortable position. This approach was imperative because the segments were mobile. Another method used to overcome the movement of the premaxilla while doing the final impression is shown in Tuna's article.⁶

The materials selected for this treatment were best suited for the clinical situation. This part of the article is important because clinicians rely on proper selection of dental materials for optimum performance.

The success of the case can be attributed not only to the utilization of solid prosthodontic principles but also to proper application of the dental materials to this clinical scenario.

REFERENCES

1. Bidra AS. Esthetic and functional rehabilitation of a bilateral cleft palate patient with fixed prosthodontic therapy. *J Esthet Restor Dent* DOI 10.1111/j.1708-8240.2011.00485.x.
2. Vojvodic D, Jerolimov P. The cleft palate patient: a challenge for prosthetic rehabilitation—clinical report. *Quintessence Int* 2001;32:521–4.
3. Sharma A, Curtis T. Cleft lip and palate. In: Beumer J, Curtis TA, Marunick MT, editors. *Maxillofacial rehabilitation: prosthodontic and surgical considerations*. St. Louis (MO), Tokyo: Ishiyaku; 1996, pp. 331–76.
4. Reisberg DJ. Dental and prosthodontic care for patients with cleft or craniofacial conditions. *Cleft Palate Craniofac J* 2000;37:534–7.
5. Ramstad T. Long-term prosthodontic followup and revisional treatment of patients with cleft lip and palate: case presentation. *Int J Prosthodont* 2001;14(5):417–22.
6. Tuna SH, Pekkan G, Keyf F. A method for positioning the premaxilla during impression making for a patient with bilateral cleft lip and palate: a clinical report. *J Prosthet Dent* 2006;96:233–6.

*Associate Professor, Department of Prosthodontics, and Director of the Maxillofacial Prosthetics Program, School of Dentistry, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL, USA; email: ruchi@uab.edu

This commentary is accompanied by article, "Esthetic and Functional Rehabilitation of a Bilateral Cleft Palate Patient with Fixed Prosthodontic Therapy" Avinash S. Bidra, BDS, MS, DOI 10.1111/j.1708-8240.2011.00485.x.

Copyright of Journal of Esthetic & Restorative Dentistry is the property of Wiley-Blackwell and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.