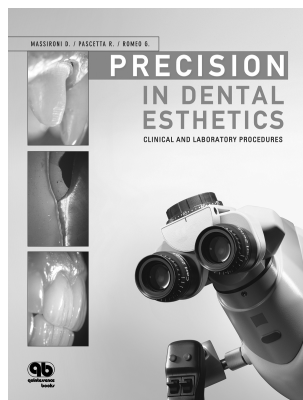


Book Review

Precision in Dental Esthetics: Clinical and Laboratory Procedures, 2nd edition



By Domenico Massironi, Romeo Pascetta, and Romeo Guiseppe, 2nd edition. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc., Chicago, IL, 2007: ISBN 1-85097-163-3 (464 pages; 1,331 illustrations, mostly color; price \$278).

One might assume from the cover of *Precision in Dental Esthetics: Clinical and Laboratory Procedures* that the text is exclusively dedicated to the topic of high-powered magnification in dentistry; however, this highly practical book offers much more than that to the reader. The authors exhibit, in a cogent and compelling manner, all the clinical and laboratory steps necessary to accomplish a favorably esthetic, periodontally sound, and functional fixed prosthodontic outcome. Each step is analyzed and justified based upon the lengthy experiences of the authors and a copious list of references. Exceptional photography and illustrations are used to demonstrate every procedure. Unifying themes throughout the book are the importance of collaboration, commitment, and communication between the clinician and laboratory technician and the use of the stereoscopic microscope in most dental procedures.

The majority of the textbook focuses on the clinical steps necessary to achieve a precise and esthetic fixed prosthesis. Three chapters in the last section of the book are dedicated to the laboratory procedures related to fixed prosthodontic treatment.

Chapter 1 examines in great detail the essential components involved in managing the treatment plan with the prosthetic team. An amazing array of clinical photographs help escort the reader through the topics of patient examination and communication, interpretation of patient treatment goals, development and implementation of the treatment plan, photographic documentation, diagnostic wax-up, teamwork between clinician and dental technician, use of a silicone index, and color matching.

The second chapter details the use of magnification systems in dentistry; operating microscopes and surgical loupes. The numerous useful applications of the operating stereoscope in both the clinical and laboratory phases of precise prosthodontic treatment are illustrated.

Chapters 3 to 9 offer extensive knowledge and demonstrations of each clinical step in the fabrication of a fixed prosthesis, such as tooth preparation and finish line for a complete crown, repositioning the finish line with oscillating instruments, soft tissue retraction technique, fabrication of a provisional restoration and custom impression tray, and impression making.

Each chapter provides striking illustrative images and clinical cases as the reader is guided through the treatment phases. Standardized prosthetic protocols, proper sequencing of instrumentation, and precision work with a stereoscope are emphasized. The authors also incorporate sections that focus on procedures specific for implant-supported restorations. An area of improvement of the textbook would be more details on porcelain laminate veneer and partial coverage preparations and restorations.

Chapters 10 to 12 address the laboratory technical and esthetic considerations relative to fixed prosthodontics. In addition to metal ceramic crown fabrication, the techniques involved with heat-pressed all-ceramic and a zirconium oxide CAD/CAM system are also clearly illustrated. Stratification techniques and knowledge of light and color are covered to help a laboratory technician develop esthetic realization in the ceramic restoration.

Chapter 13 looks at the cementation of the dental prosthesis. The types, properties, distinctive features, and clinical procedures involved with provisional and permanent cements are examined. An excellent table at the end of the chapter lists the clinical indications for various cements and fixed prosthodontic restorations.

This textbook would be an invaluable resource for clinicians and dental laboratory technicians wanting to improve their esthetic and functional fixed prosthodontic outcomes. With such a detailed analysis of all aspects of treatment delivery, it could also be used by dental and laboratory technician schools as a viable training syllabus.

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