

Challenges in Teaching of Prosthodontics

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Changes in demographics and oral health have altered patients' demands for the prosthetic treatments. Edentulousness is decreasing and people tend to retain their natural dentition into late life. However, condition of the dentitions does not guarantee functional occlusion without prosthetic interventions. Dental treatment need is polarizing into the old age groups and new generations have increasing demands towards dental treatments including prosthetic rehabilitations. This can be seen in the increasing request of fixed restorations. On the other hand, many partial dentate persons get their first removable prosthesis later in their life.

Material and technical development has been very fast in recent years. This is mainly due to fast progress the of CAD/CAM techniques. Today dentists have many alternative methods for replacing missing teeth and vast choice of materials to choose from. Aging patient population can also complicate treatment planning.

Dental educators have to adapt their curriculum according to the changing world. New generation of dentists will require completely new kinds of skills and more knowledge on general medicine. However, these challenges are very difficult to meet without leaving out some traditional contents of prosthodontic education.

This lecture will highlight the future demands for prosthetic curriculums. It will also discuss about the importance of traditional prosthetic courses under the pressure to adapt teaching programs with the increasing demands. One of the goals is to stimulate the educators to seek more effective teaching methods that can assure effective learning in modern environment.