

Introduction to Prosthodontics

Prosthetics: The art and science of supplying artificial replacements for missing parts of the human body.

Prosthesis: An artificial replacement of an absent part of the human body.



Prosthodontics (Prosthetic dentistry): Is the art and science of the diagnosis, treatment planning of rehabilitation and maintenance of the oral functions, comfort, appearance and health of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing or deficient teeth and/ or maxillofacial tissues using biocompatible substitutes.

Dental prosthesis: An artificial replacement of one or more teeth (up to the entire dentition in either arch or both arches) and associated dento / alveolar structures.



Fixed dental prosthesis: Any dental prosthesis that is luted, screwed, mechanically attached or otherwise securely retained to natural teeth, tooth roots, and/or dental implant abutments that furnish the primary support for the dental prosthesis. This may include replacement of one, several or all of the teeth in each dental arch or both.

Removable dental prosthesis: Any dental prosthesis that replaces some or all teeth in a partially dentate arch (Partial removable dental prosthesis) or edentate arch (complete removable dental prosthesis). It can be removed from the mouth and replaced at will.

Complete denture: A removable dental prosthesis that replaces the entire dentition and associated structures of the maxillae, mandible or both.

Objectives dental prosthesis:

1. Restoration of the function of mastication.
2. Restoration of the disturbed facial dimensions and contours. (esthetics)
3. Preservation of the remaining tissues in health.
4. Satisfaction, pleasing and comfort of the patient.
5. Correction of speech due to the loss of natural teeth.

General consideration in dental prosthesis construction:

1. Operator related: **a.** Certain degree of diagnostic skills. **b.** Sound knowledge of biological and mechanical principles to provide a patient with complete denture. **c.** Certain degree of artistic ability to achieve good esthetic requirements. **d.** Careful manipulation of dental materials and devices.
2. Subject related **a.** Co-operation with the dentist. **b.** Some understanding of the limitation of prosthetic restoration. **c.** Patience during the construction, learning and adjustment of the new prosthesis.
3. Technical: There should be co-operation between clinical and technical procedures.

Causes for teeth loss:

1. Dental caries
2. Periodontal disease
3. Pathology (like cyst)
4. Trauma (like mandibular fracture)
5. Congenital missing (hypodontia)