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Research Paper

Denture Identification

Medical Science

KEYWORDS :

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Summary:
The identification of dentures is more important for the old and mentally confused patients who are on a longer stay under nursing care. It is also important for forensic identification of a diseased or missing person. Many methods are in use to identify the dentures. A simple method to mark the dentures by using platinum or palladium strips is described.

The dentures (complete or partial) are identified by many ways. In dental laboratories engraving or inclusion of identity tags are the common methods for identification. The simplest method is to write with the permanent ink markers and covering it with self cure resin. The permanent solution is to embed marked metal strips inside the denture base resin. The identification is critical particularly for the old and mentally confused patients. Sometimes they are so much attached to the old worned dentures, that if they are replaced by new ones they hardly accept and adapt to the new dentures, howsoever meticulously they are made.

The identification is essential particularly at geriatric nursing homes or for patients who are on nursing care on a longer stay. It is also useful for forensic identification of diseased/missing persons. The marking by ink or pencil has been found to be disappointing due to its durability. Therefore more permanent methods like embedding the typed tags within the denture bases have been recommended by many doctors. A typed paper or foil can be embedded inside the denture base during packing of the heat cure denture base resin. Using red color for marking the dentures on a polished side at molar region provides acceptable cosmetic results.

Commercial Techniques:
There are other methods available for marking the dentures by using tiny metal discs that are engraved and fixed in to the denture with the drill. But it is very small and requires magnifying glasses to read. Marking with palladium or platinum foil strips is a simple easily performed method in most of the dental laboratories. During packing of the resin material the foil can be placed on the cast in the desired location with a clear self cure resin for embedding followed by heat cure packing the dough. To place the lag on the polished side it can be embedded by placing it on the counter plaster with self cure at the desired location followed by dough packing. To place it on the polished surface after processing of the dentures a small recess cut out to allow the foil to be embedded with clear self cure resin.

The tags should be unobtrusive, non destructive and durable. The materials like orthodontic matrix bands may be used. For forensic reasons, badly injured or diseased denture wearing adults with no means of identity can be identified if they are wearing marked dentures. It is also very helpful in cases of homicide or missing person's identification.

Conclusion:
The complete or partial dentures should be marked for patients who are routinely admitted to a long stay care, particularly in geriatric/psychiatric wards. The dental laboratories will not mistakenly supply wrong set of dentures. To identify a person who is severely injured and to facilitate post mortem positive identification of an unidentified person. The technique of marking the dentures permanently by using palladium or platinum foil strips is described.

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