

Does the Restored FPD Prosthesis Effects the Perception of Masticatory Laterality??

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Expansion in the fabrication of more comprehensive fixed dental restorations befalls with the rising demand for aesthetics and function by the patients. The prime affair of the successful fixed prosthetic restoration depends on the beneficiation of sufficient dental units to sustain occlusal stability and mastication during the function. In natural dentition, majority of the people prefer bilateral chewing at the same time either on the right side or left side alternatively or on the one side consistently. This phenomenon is considered as Masticatory Laterality or Preferred Chewing Side (PCS). Based on complex peripheral and central neural memory mechanisms, the general tendency of humans is to continue the unaffected side, even after rehabilitation of affected side. In the early stages of FPD restoration, patient perception generally will be on the PCS than the restored side. However, if the restored FPD is in functioning for a period, the patient perception towards PCS can be altered to normality. If PCS does exist for a long duration, it may affect the functioning of TMJ, which may cause attrition. So, PCS is considered as one of the essential factors to determine the well-being of the TMJ, which in turn is in harmony with the masticatory rehabilitation. Identifying the importance of Perception of PCS which can be included during diagnosis and treatment planning of FPD apart from biomechanical factors to achieve proper functioning of stomatognathic system is essential, thereby reduce the occlusal overload on the existing teeth.

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