Oral Restorative Prosthetics

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Case Study #2

This was an interesting case. The patient was highly motivated for a solution to the problem of having to have all upper teeth extracted. They tried a traditional denture first and the patient just could not tolerate the palate being covered so other options had to be presented. As always, money was big factor in what could be done. Patient was not able to afford a full arch, implant retained, crown & bridge permanent solution. So in reviewing the case both in lab and with technical representatives of NobelBiocare & Keystone/Lifecore we came up with the following recommendation/treatment plan. Initial plan by the oral surgeon was to place 4 implants with o-ring abutments and retro-fit existing denture (which the patient did not like esthetically and did not fit well).

Not being a big fan of the o-ring style of attachments and the patients desire for a more esthetic denture with really good retention & stability we offered the following option.

Since patient cannot tolerate palatal coverage, the support and retention for the full maxillary denture is going to have to come from the implants. For this reason we suggest the use of 6 implants, not 4. Ideally implant sites would be at #2, #5, #7, #10, #12, #15. #'s 2 & 15 should be wide diameter, #'s 5 & 12 can be either regular or wide diameter, #'s 7 & 10 will probably be small diameter, but regular would be preferable. After the teeth have been set in wax and tried in we'll be better able to determine diameter and length. The final restoration would be 2 hader bars retained by 3 implant each and an open palate over-denture secured by 6 clips. The following treatment plan should result in the best end result.

1. Establish bite using traditional methods.
2. Set teeth in wax and try-in to verify vertical and proper tooth placement and lip support.
3. Create clear duplicate denture from wax up to use as surgical guide for implant placement.
4. Place implants.
5. After healing is complete take impression for custom tray for fabrication of hader bars.
6. Make custom tray.
7. Take impression using impression pins/transfer assemblies.
8. Fabricate hader bars. Modify wax up to allow room for hader bars.
9. Try in hader bars and wax up to reverify bite.
10. Take wash in wax up, pulling bars in wash for final processing of denture.
11. Process and finish denture.
12. Seat hader bars. Deliver denture.

Total time from start to finish for this case was about 1 year. Due to a defect in the mouth and in the bone the placement of the implants was not the best and a slight change in the design of the bar had to be made. But the end result was exactly what the patient was looking for. The case has been in the mouth now for over 5 years.