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Improving Quality of Life with Extraoral Implant Supported Maxillofacial Prosthesis: A Review

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ABSTRACT:

The face is the central organ of sense, which plays a crucial role in communication, expression and emotions. Therefore, any disfigurement can lead to both physical and psychological problems. The last few decades have witnessed a significant increase in extensive malignancies of the head and neck region. This has resulted in an increasing number of patients with extensive post-surgical defects. These defects should be restored with facial prosthesis using different materials and retention methods to achieve a life-like look and function. Maxillofacial prostheses play a vital role in comprehensive rehabilitation by restoring physical and psychological well-being in patients. However, currently it's possible to restore patients near- normal form and function, enabling them to lead a productive life, with the help of advancements in extraoral implants and improved prosthetic attachments. The various modes of retention of the maxillofacial prosthesis depend on the case requirements with respect on the location and size of defects, resilience, possible undercut of adjacent tissue, the weight of the fabricated maxillofacial prosthesis and anatomical factors such as undercuts and concavities. This review throws a light on the different types of the Implant retained maxillofacial prostheses.

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