



HEB's Journal of Prosthodontics Dentistry
An Official Publication of Bureau for Health & Education Status Upliftment
(Constitutionally Entitled as Health-Education, Bureau)

Combination Syndrome: Current Concepts in Etiology, Diagnosis, Prevention, and Prosthodontic Management - A Narrative Review

Dr Ahammed Ajmal Yasin VP, Dr Anand KS

Email Id: serviceheb@gmail.com

Abstract

Background: Combination syndrome (CS) is a complex prosthodontic condition that develops when a completely edentulous maxillary arch opposes natural mandibular anterior teeth or an unfavorable partially edentulous mandibular arch. The syndrome is characterized by progressive anterior maxillary ridge resorption, enlargement of the maxillary tuberosities, extrusion of mandibular anterior teeth, posterior mandibular ridge resorption, and associated soft tissue alterations. If left untreated, these changes compromise prosthesis stability, occlusion, esthetics, and oral function.

Objective: This review aims to summarize the current understanding of the etiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, prevention, and management of combination syndrome, with special emphasis on contemporary prosthodontic and implant-supported treatment strategies.

Methods: A narrative review was prepared by synthesizing classical prosthodontic concepts with current evidence regarding the diagnosis and management of combination syndrome. Relevant literature describing conventional prosthodontic rehabilitation, implant therapy, preventive measures, and multidisciplinary management was reviewed.

Results: Combination syndrome develops primarily because of unfavorable occlusal loading and altered force distribution between the edentulous maxilla and the partially edentulous mandible. Progressive bone loss and soft tissue changes reduce denture stability and accelerate residual ridge resorption. Conventional prosthodontic approaches remain valuable when appropriate impression techniques, occlusal principles, periodic maintenance, and tissue preservation are followed. Implant-supported prostheses have significantly improved treatment outcomes by enhancing retention, stability, masticatory efficiency, and preservation of residual alveolar bone.

Conclusion: Early diagnosis, comprehensive treatment planning, and individualized rehabilitation are essential for preventing the progression of combination syndrome. Contemporary implant-assisted treatment, combined with sound prosthodontic principles, offers predictable long-term functional and esthetic outcomes.

Keywords: Combination syndrome, anterior maxillary resorption, complete denture, removable partial denture, implant-supported prosthesis, residual ridge resorption, prosthodontics.

Access this Article Online	Quick Response Code: 
Website: http://heb-nic.in/jopd	
Received on 13/07/2026	
Accepted on 24/07/2026 © HEB All rights reserved	