melissa 沈嬿文

"ljfuh" <ljfuh@mail.cmu.edu.tw>
"'MelissaShen'" <a2312830@ms28.hinet.net>
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Reducing Occlusal Errors Introduced By Centric Record Taking

Fuh, Lih-Jyh * **China Medical University Department Of Prosthodontics, School Of Dentistry** Taichung, Taiwan

Purpose: Centric relation record is used to relate maxillary and mandibular arches in a position as the reference point or starting point for prosthodontics diagnosis or treatments. The aim of centric relation position is to detect and eliminate occlusal interferences and/or to establish occlusal harmony in either the natural or the rehabilitated dentition.

Methods & Materials: However, the centric relation usually is not coincide with maximal intercuspation and is backwards, it is thus unstable in essence. To capture this position accurately, it is required to bring the jaw and lock in the position with recording material filling into the interocclusal space instantaneously to prevent further sliding into maximal intercuspation. Because of the thickness and flowability of the common used material (e.g. wax) for centric record and the difference of the arc of closure between the patient and articulator, errors would be introduced instead of eliminated!

Results: Therefore, careful manipulation and verification of centric relation position between patients and mounted casts in the articulator is mandatory for all prosthodontic procedures.

Conclusion: Materials and techniques used in centric record taking for fixed, removable and complete dentures will be discussed to reduce errors introduced.