Self-Estimated Quality of Life in Wearing Two Different Provisional Dentures

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Introduction

Purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the self-assessed satisfaction in patients wearing two different types of provisional removable partial dentures (RPD) consecutively.

Materials and Methods

24 patients with single tooth gaps in the upper or lower jaw were selected (Fig. 1, 2, 4). All patients were distributed into 2 age groups (adults: 25-45 yrs, elderly: 65-85 yrs) (Fig. 3). One half of each group was treated with a regular provisional RPD (PMMA), the other half was treated with a flexible RPD made of polyamide 6.6 (Valplast®) first (Fig. 5). After six weeks both groups were crossed-over (Fig. 6). The self-assessed oral health-related quality of life (OhrQoL) was evaluated by the oral health impact profile (OHIP-G 14) initially (prior to first treatment), intermediately (after first treatment) and finally (after second treatment). Data was analyzed by Mann-Whitney-U-Test using SPSS 17.0 (level of significance: p<.05).

Results

Most individuals in both age groups self-reported their OhrQoL being superior in wearing Valplast partials compared to regular PMMA partials (Fig. 7-9). Especially, the differences between both types of anterior partials were significant. The sequence of prosthodontic treatment (type of partial) had no significant influence on the OHIP score (Fig. 13). Comparing untreated gaps with Valplast treated gaps, the differences of the OHIP scores were significant, but were not between untreated and with PMMA partials treated gaps (Fig. 10-12). Main aspects leading to an increased OhrQoL by Valplast partials compared to PMMA partials were increased esthetics, a better fit and adaption of flexible denture and less pressure sores (Fig. 14).

Conclusions

Valplast partials may increase OhrQoL in patients with single tooth gaps of various age groups, especially in provisional prosthodontic treatment of anterior tooth gaps.