

the field of dental FRC materials have been able to resolve many of the aforementioned questions. These aspects with clinical examples will be demonstrated in the lecture.

6. When and How Shall I Plan Dental and Prosthetic Treatment for the Elderly?

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The planning of dental and prosthetic treatment for the elderly requires knowledge of the patient's oral and general health status as well as social orientation. As for most people, loss of teeth is associated with reduced quality of life. Thus, it must be of primary importance to prevent oral diseases leading to edentulism. However, due to medical, economic and social reasons, a conventional approach may not always be optimal.

Scientific investigations and clinical experience confirm that treatment with implant-supported prosthesis is equally successful among the old as among younger patients. Good esthetics, chewing comfort and a minimum of future problems can be obtained by a treatment strategy based on timely intervention with implant-supported prosthesis.

7. Gerodontology - Status and New Challenges

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Changing demographics, which include a dramatic increase in the number of old and very old individuals have great implications for the health care professions. Further, the rates of edentulousness and tooth loss are rapidly declining. Consequently, the number of teeth at risk of developing unfavorable oral diseases is growing. As patients live longer with significant chronic systemic disease, and as more older people seek dental care, practitioners will increasingly encounter medically and func-

tionally compromised individuals. Many recent studies have shown that systemic diseases, their treatments, and functional impairments have an impact on oral health and function and consequently on the quality of life of an older person. However, the interplay between general health and oral health is a two-way relationship. Oral infections, in particular periodontal disease, give rise to pathogens, which can become blood born or aspirated into the lungs, and which may cause serious, even life-threatening consequences. An understanding of the interplay between general and oral health is imperative, if oral health care is to have a reasonable chance of success. One of the major challenges facing the dental profession today is maintaining oral health and function into the oldest-old years, especially in those elderly, who do not age successfully. Age alone, however, should have no influence on the decision to treat or not to treat.

8. The Role of Prosthetic Dentistry in Mass Disaster Identification

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Dentistry plays a very important role in the identification of the victims in mass disasters. More than 50% of the identification work is concluded by dental means and investigation. Prosthetic work, and especially full rehabilitations with dental implants, crowns and bridges, is very valuable for dental identification.

The biggest problems, however, are full upper and lower dentures. Marking of dentures would be a very valuable aid in identification procedures and very easy to do at a low cost. The legal aspects of identification will be explained, as well as the role of the forensic odontologist in the identification team.

9. The Significance of Prosthodontic Appliances in Identification of Human Remains in Croatia

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