

The use of CAD/CAM technology in the treatment of a patient with Alzheimer's disease: a case report

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Introduction:

When elderly are diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease they lose their independence and neglect dental hygiene. It is important to understand that patients with dementia or Alzheimer's disease do not always interpret what they are hearing and seeing correctly, leading to a range of misunderstandings. They do not always show a lot of compliance and become easily agitated when other people are approaching them or when the treatment takes too long.

Methods:

The oral management of a 78-year old female patient suffering of Alzheimer's disease with a chief complaint of overnight "loss" of the upper left lateral incisor is discussed. She was very distressed by its disappearance and wanted an immediate tooth replacement. The use of CAD/CAM chairside technology (Cerec 3D[®]) was chosen because this way the "classical" impression taking could be replaced by an optical scan and all steps could be executed in the office in a limited number of sessions.

Conclusions:

Caretakers do not always recognize oral hygiene as an elementary need for the patients who suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Beside the dental problem, caretakers and family also have to deal with behaviour problems. The fabrication of a full ceramic bonded bridge utilizing the Cerec 3D[®] chairside CAD/CAM technology in an Alzheimer patient has been shown to be a feasible, precise, aesthetic and durable solution. It added a technique for intervening with patients with limited tolerance for dental procedures, which improves the quality of life of both patient and family.