



ORAL REHABILITATION WITH PARTIAL FIXED DENTURE IN A SPECIAL CARE PATIENT WITH SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE

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INTRODUCTION

THE TRAUMA CENTER IN PUERTO RICO ANNUALLY TREATS AROUND 1,500 TRAUMA PATIENTS, WITH A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY BEING MEN (87%) COMPARED TO WOMEN (12%). MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS AS THE ONE OUR CLIENT SUFFERED, ARE THE LEADING SOURCE OF SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI), CAUSING MOTOR, COGNITIVE, AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT. ORAL HYGIENE ROUTINE AND SPECIALIZED ORAL CARE ARE HIGHLY AFFECTED IN THIS POPULATION GROUP. DENTISTS IN PUERTO RICO SHOULD PROVIDE SERVICES TO THESE PARTICULAR PATIENTS SINCE ORAL REHABILITATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR FULL RECOVERY PROCESS. THE OVERALL GOAL OF RECOVERY AFTER BRAIN DAMAGE IS TO IMPROVE THE PATIENT'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION AT HOME AND IN SOCIETY AND OFFER THEM A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE. DESPITE DIFFERENT TREATMENT MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PATIENT, THE KIDDIE DENTURE PROVIDED A COMPLETE REGAINING OF HIS MASTICATORY FUNCTION, IMPROVED AESTHETICS, AND CONTRIBUTED TO HIS EMOTIONAL HEALTH.

OBJECTIVE

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CLINICAL CASE REPORT IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL REHABILITATION IN PATIENTS WITH SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE TO IMPROVE THEIR OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE.



FIRST VISIT

CASE REPORT

A 37-YEAR-OLD MALE PATIENT WITH A MEDICAL HISTORY OF SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE DUE TO A CAR ACCIDENT 19 YEARS AGO.

THE PATIENT PRESENTS COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT, WHICH CAUSES DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING AND PAYING ATTENTION, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO FORM NEW MEMORIES OR RECALL PAST EVENTS. THE PATIENT SHOWS PROBLEMS ARTICULATING WORDS AND MOTOR AND SENSORY DEFICIENCIES WHICH CAUSE COORDINATION ISSUES, EVIDENCED BY UNCONTROLLED HAND MOVEMENTS.

WITH THE NEW ERA OF DIGITAL DENTISTRY, WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS. TWO OPTIONS WERE OFFERED TO THE FAMILY: ONE THAT INCLUDED FIXED PROSTHESES WITH TWO FIXED BRIDGES, AND ANOTHER ONE: A KIDDIE DENTURE. DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS, THE FAMILY CHOSE THE SECOND OPTION. THE KIDDIE DENTURE WAS DESIGNED AND INSERTED.



DIGITAL IMPRESSION



LABORATORY WORK



DENTAL APPLIANCE INSERTION



ONE YEAR FOLLOW UP



ONE YEAR FOLLOW UP

CONCLUSION

DENTISTS IN PUERTO RICO MUST PROVIDE SERVICES TO THESE TYPES OF PATIENTS WHERE ORAL REHABILITATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE RECOVERY PROCESS. THE OVERALL GOAL OF REHABILITATION AFTER A BRAIN DAMAGE IS TO IMPROVE THE PATIENT'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION AT HOME AND IN SOCIETY, GIVING TO THE PATIENT A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE. DESPITE DIFFERENT TREATMENT MANAGEMENT FOR THIS PATIENT, THE EFFICACY OF THE USE OF A KIDDIE DENTURE ON THE PATIENT PROVIDED A RECOVERY OF FUNCTION AND AESTHETICS AND CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR EMOTIONAL HEALTH.



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