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An Eye for an EYE: A Case Report

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT:
Eyes, Maxillofacial Prosthesis, Ocular Prosthesis, Impression, Esthetics	Eyes are generally the first features of the face to be noted. The unfortunate loss or absence of an eye may be caused by a congenital defect, irreparable trauma, tumor, a painful blind eye, sympathetic ophthalmia or the need for histological confirmation of a suspected diagnosis. The rehabilitation of a patient who has suffered the psychological trauma of an ocular loss requires a prosthesis that will provide the optimum cosmetic and functional result. This article describes the rehabilitation of an ocular defect by ocular prosthesis in a female patient. Maxillofacial prosthesis increases the patient's quality of life and encourages them to build up their self-confidence to return back to their social life.

Introduction

There are several techniques documented in the literature for fitting and fabricating the artificial eye. Meticulous physical and psychological distress happens due to disfigurement caused by loss of eye. Literature has evidenced that ocular prosthesis is the only mode of rehabilitation for the missing eye.^{1,2} There are various materials and techniques used for the fabrication of the ocular prosthesis. The disfigurement associated with the loss of an eye can cause significant physical and emotional problems. Two surgical procedures are generally used, one is evisceration, which is the removal of the contents of the globe, leaving the sclera and on occasions the cornea in place and the other procedure is enucleation where the eyeball is completely removed. Ocular prostheses are either readymade (stock) or custom made. Stock prostheses are usually advocated when time is limited and cost is a consideration.^{4,6,9} This case report illustrates about the rehabilitation of an ocular defect by ocular prosthesis wherein patient's quality of life is upgraded with overall increase in self confidence.

Case Report

A 48 year old female patient reported to the Department of Prosthodontics for rehabilitation of lost right eye following an accident 1 year back. Examination of the socket revealed good healing; no signs of inflammation, and eyelids were unaffected. Basic history was recorded and diagnosis was finalized accordingly. Medical history was also taken care of for any systemic condition. Previous history of hospitalization was also recorded and considered during treatment planning procedure. Patient was informed about the clinical procedure to be done. Informed and signed consent was obtained from the patient. Patient's personal details were kept confidential and not disclosed elsewhere. Treatment included planning fabrication of Maxillofacial prosthesis using standard clinical procedures and steps.

Procedure

Before taking impression, impression tray was made. Patient was instructed to tilt the head backward,

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medium body impression material was injected into the eye socket. Once filled, the patient was directed to move her eyes up and down. This will facilitate the flow of the impression material to all aspects of the socket. After the material was set; the impression was rotated out of the socket. Impression was checked for accuracy and excess material was trimmed. After an acceptable impression of the eye socket has been obtained, it was invested in dental stone. Stone mould was partially split after setting, and impression of the socket removed. Wax pattern was made. Wax was added or trimmed from the basic scleral pattern outside the socket and replaced until satisfactory contours of the eyelids were achieved both in open and closed positions. Positioning the Iris: The position of contralateral eye's iris was used as a guide, to mark expected position of iris. Heat cured acrylic resin was used to fabricate the definitive eye prosthesis. Prosthesis was inserted into the socket, and checked for any areas requiring adjustment. Esthetics and comfort of the patient were evaluated. The patient was educated to insert and remove the prosthesis (Figure 1-4).



Pre Operative



Appearance of Right eye socket Figure 1



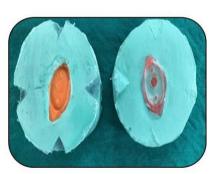
Impression



Intaglio surface



Impression poured in Dental Stone



Cast Retrieved



Adjustment of wax pattern



Final try In Figure 3



Finished and polished

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Right side ocular Prosthesis Placed

Figure 4

Discussion

As we all are aware that an ocular prosthetic does not provide vision. Maxillofacial prostheses usually restore and replace stomatognathic and related facial structures with artificial substitutes.^{1,2} Maxillofacial prostheses generally directed to enhance the patient aesthetics, restore and maintain health of the remaining structures and therefore offer physical and mental well being.^{3,4} The rehabilitation of a patient who has encountered the psychological trauma of an eye requires a prosthesis which can provide the best possible aesthetics and functional outcomes. Several techniques have been used in the past by several researchers for fitting and fabricating artificial eyes.^{5,6,7} There are various materials and techniques used for the fabrication of the ocular prosthetic. Resin proved to be the better among the available materials. Resin received huge recognition because of its light weight, transparency, improved fracture resistance, easiness of fabrication, easy adjustability, and its capability for intrinsic and extrinsic coloring.8,9

Conclusion

Human eyes are the most vibrant component of the facial expression. Although the patient cannot see with the ocular prosthesis however, it has definitely restored patient's self-esteem and allowed her to confidently face the world. The lifelike appearance of ocular prosthesis and the ability to perform eye movements help to restore the mental health and confidence of the patient.

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