Textbook of

Removable Prosthodontics

– the Scandinavian Approach
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Preface
The aim of this book is to present the Scandinavian treatment philosophy of removable prosthodontics in which biology and function have priority over the more technical approach favoured by others.

Our ambition has been to include basic theoretical principles and clinical procedures for both complete and partial removable dentures. Without question, there is a need for dental students to acquire adequate knowledge and clinical skills within this field. For several reasons, the advent of implants and reduced prevalence of edentulousness does not alter this fact. Even in affluent Scandinavia the percentage of prostheses retained by implants is still in the single digits. Globally the percentage is even smaller. Accordingly, implants cannot now, nor in the foreseeable future, solve all problems associated with missing teeth. The great majority of patients with these afflictions must still be treated with removable dentures. Without adequate knowledge of such treatment, future dentists fail in providing competent treatment to a substantial proportion of future patients. Finally, knowledge regarding removable dentures may be indispensable when manufacturing extensive fixed restorations.

The Scandinavian treatment philosophy is largely based on periodontal and clinical prosthodontic research, which has demonstrated that the critical factor in tooth (and abutment) survival is establishing and maintaining good periodontal health by plaque control, not by trying to reduce or distribute widely mechanical loading. While we do not claim that this is a trait uniquely Scandinavian, it is perhaps fair to say that it is typically so.

While the above treatment philosophy, particularly relevant for tooth-borne prostheses, is largely based on reasonable scientific evidence, this is almost absent in regard to complete dentures. For that reason the undocumented use of time-consuming and costly procedures with complicated face bows, articulators and occlusal schemes are rejected in Scandinavia in favour of simpler methods. This also means that treatment with complete dentures is unquestionably more an art than a science. Accordingly, the procedures must be mainly based on clinical experience such as is presented in this textbook, with all the uncertainties thereof.

The editors have consciously avoided too much “streamlining” of the different styles, ways of expression and degree of penetration exhibited by the co-authors. On the contrary, the authors have been given the opportunity of leaving their individual mark on the text.

Without the effort of all co-authors, this textbook would not have come into being. The editors would therefore like to express their gratitude and deep respect for the work that they have diligently invested. We are also most grateful to the publisher Munksgaard, for taking on the task of publishing this book.

Umeå, October 2011

Margareta Molin Thorén    Johan Gunne
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