

25. Implant dentistry : From failure to success

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Understanding failures and their causes is more difficult with implant supported prosthesis than with conventional prosthodontics perhaps because of the greater risk or invasiveness of the procedures and/or the greater expense to the patient. Most unsuccessful cases are the

result of lack of communications among team members, insufficient knowledge of each member responsibilities, false assumptions and attempts by practitioners to treat situations for which they are not trained.. Complications frequently occur as a result of poor diagnosis and treatment planning, lack of proper case sequencing, or inadequate use of provisional prosthesis. Inadequate technical skill in the fabrication of prosthesis also can cause failure. Failed implant-supported prosthesis can involve both surgical and prosthetic intervention. Management of patients with failed prosthesis requires the restorative practitioner not only to solve and prevent further failures but also to defuse legal problems between patients and their previous clinician.

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