

36. Current principles of advanced digital technologies in the fabrication of maxillofacial prosthesis

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Maxillofacial prosthetics is a specialised profession that seeks to meet the needs of patients with various degrees of facial deformity by restoring aesthetic and functional aspect of missing tissue using artificial materials. The traditional workflow from taking an impression of the maxillofacial defect until finalisation of the maxillofacial prosthesis is , technic sensitive, multiple laboratory steps and time consuming. Advanced digital technology in maxillofacial prosthodontics has shown its potential in replacing certain steps in the traditional workflow of designing and fabricating facial prostheses. For long, there was no alternative to traditional approach, but since the advent of three dimensional (3d) scanners, 3d software and rapid prototyping technology, the traditional impression, modelling and production techniques can probably be replaced by digital equivalents. The digital technology can be used for obtaining better results in shade matching or adding surface characters & details.the digital technology in maxillofacial prosthodontics is evolving and has shown its potential in replacing certain steps in the traditional workflow of designing and fabricating facial prostheses.this

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paper discusses the current status and principle of digital technology used in prosthetic rehabilitation of maxillofacial defects.

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