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Position Paper

Clinical application of removable partial dentures using thermoplastic resin—Part I: Definition and indication of non-metal clasp dentures



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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpor.2013.12.002>

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 11 November 2013

Accepted 5 December 2013

Available online 22 January 2014

Keywords:

Removable partial denture

Thermoplastic resin

Non-metal clasp denture

Resin clasp

Metal allergy

ABSTRACT

This position paper proposes a definition and naming standard for removable partial dentures (RPDs) using thermoplastic resin, and presents a guideline for clinical application. A panel of 14 experts having broad experience with clinical application of RPDs using thermoplastic resin was selected from members of the Japan Prosthodontic Society. At a meeting of the panel, “non-metal clasp denture” was referred as the generic name of RPDs with retentive elements (resin clasps) made of thermoplastic resin. The panel classified non-metal clasp dentures into two types: one with a flexible structure that lacks a metal framework and the other having a rigid structure that includes a metal framework. According to current prosthetic principles, flexible non-metal clasp dentures are not recommended as definitive dentures, except for limited cases such as patients with a metal allergy. Rigid non-metal clasp dentures are recommended in cases where patients will not accept metal clasps for esthetic reasons. Non-metal clasp dentures should follow the same design principles as conventional RPDs using metal clasps.

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