

Dr. Stephen M. Parel

Title

A Retrospective on Denture Construction and the Emerging Prosthodontic Perspective of Treating Edentulism

Abstract:

There may be value in looking retrospectively at edentulism with a modern eye. Whether it is the failing dentition or the complete denture patient, it starts at the dental student level with the ancient and respected art form of making dentures. As a long time required treatment modality at the graduate level, and a staple of the Board Examination process, denture construction is a cornerstone of our specialty. This presentation will look at the denture concept itself, and how the quest for retention has been addressed over the years. Implants have certainly played a significant role in this evolutionary process, so much so that it may well be time to re-evaluate the efficacy of at least the lower denture prosthesis. Should we question at the specialty level what should be the “State of the Art”, “State of the Science”, or (dare we say it) the Standard of Care, especially with our new surgical guidelines?

Learning Objectives

1. To understand the historical perspective for retention in full arch restorations
2. To appreciate the differences between arches for creating patient acceptable retentive results
3. Debate the role implants should play in minimizing potential damage from removable prosthetics

Biography

Dr. Parel received his dental degree from The Medical College of Virginia in 1969. He spent one year as a general practice resident with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond, which was followed by a two-year residency in Prosthodontics at the Wadsworth Veterans Administration Hospital in Los Angeles. He received his maxillofacial prosthetics training in Houston at the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in 1973. He became a faculty member in the University of Texas System in 1975, rising to the rank of full professor in the San Antonio Medical and Dental Schools in 1978. He served as head of the Maxillofacial Prosthetics Division in the Department of Prosthodontics until 1991. He also served as the course director for osseointegration training at the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Dentistry in San Antonio, one of the four original Brånemark training centers in the United States. Following 7 years of private practice in prosthetic and implant dentistry, Dr. Parel served as a professor at Baylor College of Dentistry—Texas A&M University System Health Science Center and director of the Center of Oral Maxillofacial Prosthodontics in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology from 1998 until 2008. Dr. Parel’s literature contributions include over 45 scientific articles as principal author, and multiple textbook contributions. He was editor and co-author of *Esthetics and Osseointegration*, a landmark reference source for implant dentistry. He authored his second book, *The SmiLine System* in 1991, and recently completed a third book, *Esthetic Implant Restorations*. He was cofounder of Osseointegration Seminars, Incorporated, and has served as president of The American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, The Academy of Osseointegration, The

Osseointegration Foundation, and the American Board of Prosthodontics. He has received the Andrew J. Ackerman Award for meritorious lifetime service in the field of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, the Distinguished Lecturer and Dan Gordon Awards from the American College of Prosthodontists. Dr. Parel was also recently selected as only the second American to receive the Brånemark Award for lifetime achievement in the field of Implant Dentistry. He presently is the director of Prosthodontics at a private Implant Specialty Clinic in Dallas, Texas.