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## INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES FOR PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION OF THE POST-SURGICAL ORAL CANCER PATIENTS

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Patients with oral cancer lesions, who had undergone the extensive surgical procedures, the ability to open the mouth is severely restricted. For the majority of patients with a limited mouth opening, certain procedures such as facial exercises and stretching movements can alleviate the problem before the impressions are made for their prosthetic rehabilitation. However, most of the patients do not respond to these procedures primarily due to facial scarring or surgical manipulation of the facial muscles. It is difficult for the dentists to obtain an ideal impression that captures all possible anatomic details due to difficulties to insert and remove the impression tray and its correct alignment during border molding procedures. For patients with a restricted mouth opening, it may be necessary to modify the standard impression procedure as well as the design of the standard prosthesis. If one-piece custom tray cannot be used while recording the secondary impression, then the custom tray may be cut into two halves and the 2 halves can be approximated. The 2-piece tray should be designed so that it fits precisely and separates easily in the mouth. This presentation shows innovative techniques for the rehabilitation of the reduced mouth opening after the surgical excision of oral cancer lesions. The advantages of these techniques are simplified tray manipulation, decreased patient trauma, precise intraoral positioning and stability, definitive indexing of tray sections for easy intraoral and extra oral reassembly as well as economical.

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