

Restoration of the vertical dimension of occlusion in the severely worn dentition.

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The guidelines presented in this article for diagnosis and treatment of extreme tooth wear are not meant to be all inclusive. Every patient has unique treatment needs, and all of these needs may not be addressed specifically in this article. We believe, however, that careful adherence to the guidelines presented should facilitate a successful treatment of most if not all patients with moderate or severe tooth wear. The general guidelines for treatment of these patients include the following: 1. A comprehensive examination, including a thorough medical and dental history, orofacial and dental clinical examination, dental radiographs, TMD screening history and examination, impressions and jaw relation records for mounting casts in a semi-adjustable articulator, 2. A diagnostic wax-up and diagnostic occlusal adjustment on additional or duplicated mounted casts, 3. Careful planning and consultation regarding the need for preparatory treatment. Careful integration and sequencing of the different areas of treatment needed to enhance the finished result, 4. Discussion with the patient of the different treatment alternatives and sequences possible for his or her individual case, with presentation of advantages and disadvantages and prognosis for each, 5. Finally, careful execution of the agreed upon treatment plan by the dentist. Although not specifically mentioned, treatment success requires a highly motivated patient and skilled dental laboratory technicians. These "treatment partners" should be included in the planning stages of treatment as early as possible to enhance the possibility of having a successful treatment result.