

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2018

Evan Summers
(312) 573-8791

media@prosthodontics.org

You Don't Have to Compromise Facial Appearance When Deciding on Dental Prosthetics, New Study Finds
Prosthodontists Determine Removable Dentures and Permanent Implant Bridges Can Both Lead to Good Looks

CHICAGO – Maintaining lip support is a concern for many dental patients. However, a new study finds there is no significant difference in an individual's facial appearance, especially in regards to the lips, if they are wearing either removable dentures or a permanent (or "fixed") bridge with dental implants.

Before this study, it was believed that individuals with no upper teeth of their own needed a full removable denture so their upper lip would rest normally when the mouth is closed. On that basis, many dental professionals recommended removable dentures instead of a permanent bridge anchored by four to six dental implants. However, a new four-part study published in the *Journal of Prosthodontics* has determined this long-held belief may be inaccurate.

A team of five prosthodontists, led by Avinash Bidra, DDS, MS, FACP, studied over 30 patients with no upper teeth. The team took photos of the patients with their mouths closed with normal dentures in place, and then again with dentures that mimicked the appearance of a dental implant. Conclusions from all four parts of the study found that there was no clinically significant difference in an individual's appearance when wearing the two types of prosthetics – a groundbreaking conclusion.

"Patients who are missing all their teeth and seeking a solution do not have to worry about any compromises to their facial appearance, especially related to the lips," said Dr. Bidra, who is director of the Prosthodontics Residency Program at University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. "This finding challenges a commonly held notion that treatment with permanent implant bridges, such as the All-on-4® treatment, may alter facial appearance and lip projection."

Now, prosthodontists and patients have more options when it comes time to decide on their best course of treatment for long-lasting health and visual appearance.

"These findings can improve treatment confidence for clinicians as well as patients," said Dr. Bidra.

This four-part study, which is the first of its kind, is titled "Differences in Lip Support with and without Labial Flanges in a Maxillary Edentulous Population."



Patient wearing removable denture



Patient wearing implant mimicking denture

(MORE)

About Prosthodontists

A prosthodontist is a dental specialist who focuses on the restoration and replacement of missing teeth and correcting other oral or facial issues. With their advanced training, prosthodontists are able to help patients with implants, dentures and veneers, all the way to full mouth and jaw reconstructions.

About the ACP

The American College of Prosthodontists (ACP) is the only ADA recognized organization for the specialty of prosthodontics, and is the only prosthodontic organization whose membership is based solely on education credentials. Founded in 1970, ACP is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing patient care, advancing the art and science of prosthodontics, promoting the specialty of prosthodontics to the public and other dentists and healthcare professionals, ensuring the quality of prosthodontic education and providing professional services to its membership. For more information, consumers can visit GoToAPro.org and dental professionals can visit Prosthodontics.org.

####