

3D Reconstruction in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics: The Art of Reanimating the Dead

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Published October 20, 2022

ABSTRACT

Background: The defects of the craniofacial region leads to severe effect on the mental health of an individual ultimately results in self-isolation and rejection of life. In such cases prosthetic reconstruction serves as boon for a patient with facial disfigurement.

Summary: Conventional protocol for fabrication of facial prostheses involves multiple intricate steps such as by making an impression, retrieving an accurate stone model in order to carve an accurate waxed up model for the defect on that cast and later transfer it into final material. These steps that are applied, currently has shown several limitations like high technical expertise required, time, effort, cost. Any minor error results in loss of retention and esthetic problems in prosthesis. Recently additive manufacturing also known as 3D printing has been developed dramatically and have becomes more and more popular in medical science. This technology has been fully incorporated in producing maxillofacial prosthesis to produce highly accurate anatomical models of the missing parts.

Conclusion: The use of 3D printing in the rehabilitation of facial defect cases marks a new era in maxillofacial prosthetics. The clinician must understand the principles of designing and outcomes of digital methods, so that potential errors will be minimized. This presentation is an overview of 3D technology and maxillofacial science in the best interest of rehabilitation of such patients conservatively.

Keywords: 3D printing, Conventional protocol, Maxillofacial prosthodontics

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Citation: Gupta R. (2022) 3D Reconstruction in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics: The Art of Reanimating the Dead. J Oral Health Dent, 5(S1): 03.

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