



American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics
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Omni Austin Downtown, Austin, Texas

Program Speaker – Eszter Somogyi-Ganss

Title

How Can We Increase the Life Span of Facial Prostheses?

Abstract

Adhesive-retained extraoral prostheses are frequently used as a non-surgical alternative for the rehabilitation of patients with facial deformities and defects. The life span of these prostheses is significantly influenced by the color stability of the silicone materials but can also be severely diminished due to inappropriate handling and adhesive removal. At the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Canada the provincial government supports fabrication of a new facial prosthesis every two years. However, we find that especially in our elderly patient population - often due to reduced dexterity - the prostheses become damaged earlier than the allotted time, leaving the patients with the only option of a costly fabrication of a new prosthesis.

We have been trying to establish an adhesive removal protocol to aid our patients and increase prosthesis life span. The evidence in the literature has not been conclusive regarding the use of isopropanol for removal of the adhesive layers from facial prostheses. Therefore, we have conducted *in vitro* experiments on silicone materials used in our service to establish color and volume changes, as well as ideal soaking time for removal of different combinations of adhesives. Based on our results, we have successfully established a patient protocol to increase the life span of facial prostheses.

Biography

Dr. Somogyi-Ganss graduated as a dentist at Semmelweis University of Medicine, Budapest, Hungary. After completing her studies, she was awarded a scholarship to study at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden but extended her stay to complete a PhD in basic sciences at the Center for Oral Biology in Stockholm, Sweden. She continued her education at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry and completed a specialty training and an MSc in Prosthodontics. Following that, she was accepted to the MD Anderson Maxillofacial Prosthodontics and Oral Oncology fellowship program, where she has gained a solid foundation for her future career. After completion of the MD Anderson program, she had returned to Canada and now works as a full time Associate Professor in Prosthodontics at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry. She is also a clinical associate for Maxillofacial Prosthodontics, as well as Clinical and Research Director for the Craniofacial Prosthetic Unit at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.