## Assessment of the Existing Denture

Take a full history – Medical: conditions, syndromes, medications, allergies, surgeries. Social: live alone/ carer, smoking, alcohol

Take a denture history

Perform an extra-oral exam with and without the dentures in the mouth

Assess the current denture type extra-orally

Intra-oral examination - without dentures

- · Soft tissues:
  - Ridge assessment- height, width, flabby/resorbed.
- · Hard tissues:
  - Abutment teeth assessmentcaries, periodontal and toothwear.
  - Occlusion and guidances.
  - OVD, RVD, RCP.
  - Kennedy classification.
  - Cawood and Howell classification.

Record contemporaneous notes for all findings. Recording the patients' expectations, current denture status and treatment plan for future construction of the denture.

- · Are you happy with your current denture?
- · How old are your current dentures?
- · How many have you had, which were the best?
- · What are your main concerns? (fit, function, aesthetics, fractures/repairs)
- Did your denture fit initially and become loose with time?
- Are you able to eat with the dentures in?What are your expectations of the new denture?
- · How long do you wear your dentures for?
- Face structure: Lower anterior face height: upper anterior face height ratio should be 1:1. Check for asymmetry.
- · Centrelines: Coincident or shifted.
- · OVD, RVD: Check for overclosure.
- · Incisal show: At rest and when smiling.
- · Lips: Form, function, symmetry and support.
- Aesthetics: Check whether the denture suits the patient's skeletal form and general appearance (too big or small).
- Occlusal plane: Posterior should be parallel with the alar-tragus line. Anterior should be parallel with the inter-pupillary line.
- · Speech: lisp, clatter, denture retention and stability during speech.
- General: Design, shape/mould/shade of denture teeth, wear, staining, presence of a diastema or irregularities, repairs, cracks.
- Acrylic: Flanges, border extensions, occlusal plane discrepancies, number of denture teeth.
- **Cobalt Chrome**: Clasps, rest seats, irritants, sharpness, flanges, border extensions, occlusal plane discrepancies, number of denture teeth.

Intra-oral examination - with dentures

- Retention: Complete dentures- push on the incisal edges of the anterior teeth and check for a posterior drop.

  Partial dentures- check the clasp engagement.
- Stability: Press unilaterally on the posterior teeth and check for a drop on the opposite side.
- **Support**: Press on the occlusal surfaces of the teeth and check if the denture sinks or if it causes the patient discomfort.
- **OVD**: Take multiple readings using a Willis bite gauge and calculate an average.
- Occlusion: Complete denture Check for a balanced occlusion Partial denture - Conforms to the current occlusion.
- Lateral guidance: Canine/group function.
- **Aesthetics**: Smile line, incisal show, curve of spee, buccal corridor, naso-labial angle and the previous natural teeth shade and form.