

SHORT COMMUNICATION

A technique to stabilize the upper member of articulator, during balanced occlusion teeth setting.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the important procedures during Post graduation is fabrication of Complete Denture with Balanced Occlusion. The Hanau Wide Vu articulator¹ (Figure 1) is widely used, being robust with an easy learning curve. The articulator is of the Arcon, Closed track Condylar element type. To fix the position of the occlusion in varying stages of protrusion or latero-trusion and help arrange the teeth for Complete dentures or to analyze natural dentition, a centric holding nuts is given to lock the condyle in place (Figure 2).

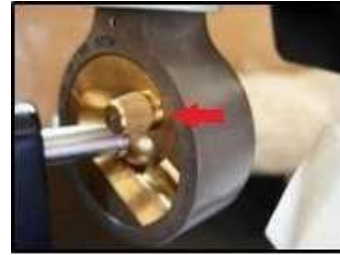


Figure 1 & 2

Before proceeding with teeth arrangement, the articulator has to be programmed as per the patient's centric and protrusive records. To programme the semi-adjustable articulator, the movable parts like lateral condylar guidance, horizontal condylar guidance and incisal guidance are adjusted accordingly. Now when you commence to set the teeth in Centric occlusion position the articulator is just perfect². When you want to check the occlusion / modify the occlusion in certain positions other than Centric occlusion, you use the centric holding nuts to lock the condyle in the particular position.

The most common problem at this point, since the centric holding nuts is a friction grip type of screw,

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it slips and it is difficult to lock the condyle. To overcome this problem articulators like Dentatus have a screw to hold the condyle at predetermined length (Figure 3). To overcome this difficulty the following procedure is recommended.

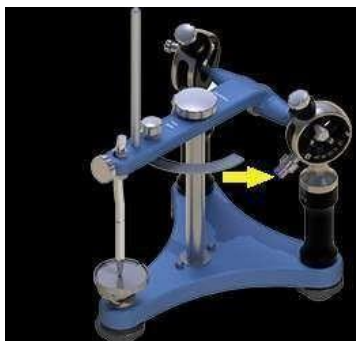


Figure 3

PROCEDURE:

Initially the upper member is held in the required protrusive and the centric holding nuts are tightened to hold them in place. The Incisal rod is raised from the incisal table. Next some lab putty is mixed and placed on the incisal table. The incisal rod is replaced and held firmly touching the incisal table. It is held fast till the lab putty sets. By doing this an index is made in protrusive.



Figure 4

Now even with the holding screws loosened, the incisal rod can be replaced in the required position repeatedly without any change. This procedure can be used as an additional aid to centric lock system to place the incisal pin in position during teeth arrangement procedure. (Fig. 4)

The same procedure can be repeated for left lateral and right lateral to make an index for respective positions of the articulator. These indexes should be placed in articulator during teeth arrangement procedure.

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