

BSSPD Prosthodontic Dentistry Glossary

A

- **abrasion (dental):** Loss of hard tooth tissue or of a restoration, caused by contact with a foreign object (not tooth contact).
- **abrasive:** A substance used for abrading, grinding, or preparing a surface for polishing.
- **abutment:** A tooth, root, or superstructure of an implant used for the support or anchorage of a fixed or removable dental prosthesis.
- **acrylic resin:** A commonly used polymer for denture bases. Acrylic resin is composed of a chain of methacrylate molecules linked together to form poly methyl methacrylate (PMMA). Common forms of the material are auto(cold) cure, light cured or heat cured.
- **additions and repairs:** The process of modifying or repairing a denture or dental prosthesis, including adding new teeth or repairing broken parts.
- **additive manufacture:** a process of creating objects by adding material layer-by-layer, commonly used in 3D printing.
- **adhesion:** The physical force that attracts certain dissimilar molecules when in close approximation.
- **adjustable articulator:** An articulator that can be adjusted to accommodate records of positions and/or movements of the mandible.
- **aesthetic zone:** The region of the mouth that is visible when smiling or speaking, typically the anterior maxillary area. *Synonym:* esthetic zone (preferred US spelling).
- **air abrasion:** The micro-mechanical roughening of a surface by blasting fine abrasive particles to improve bonding.
- **alar-tragal line:** A line passing through the inferior border of the ala of the nose and the mid-point of the tragus of the ear. [This line is approximately parallel to the Frankfurt plane, cranial base and the occlusal plane of the natural teeth.]
- **alginate:** Hydrocolloid (irreversible) impression material. Irreversible hydrocolloids consist of sols of alginic acid with a physical state that is changed by an irreversible chemical reaction to form an insoluble calcium alginate (gel).
- **all ceramic crown:** A full-coverage restoration made entirely of ceramic materials without a metal substructure.
- **alloy:** A mixture of two or more metals possessing properties such as strength, corrosion resistance, or castability suitable for dental restorations.
- **altered cast:** A master cast that is altered by partial replacement with a cast of an additional impression.
- **alveolar ridge / residual ridge:** The remaining part of the bony process and the covering tissues which once supported the teeth.
- **alveolectomy:** Surgical reduction of the residual alveolar process.
- **alveolotomy:** The fracturing and moulding of the alveolar process following the removal of the interdental septa.

- **anatomic contour:** The shape and form of a tooth restoration that reproduces natural tooth morphology.
- **anatomical tooth:** An artificial tooth with a crown form simulating that of a natural tooth.
- **angular cheilitis:** Inflammation of the corners of the mouth, usually with a combined bacterial and fungal origin. Often occurs when the dentures fail to provide adequate lip support, or a reduced occlusal vertical dimension.
- **angulated screw channel:** A screw access design that allows the screw channel to be redirected away from the aesthetic zone while maintaining retrievability.
- **anodontia:** Total absence of teeth due to developmental failure. Severe hypodontia.
- **anterior guidance:** The influence of the contacting surfaces of anterior teeth on mandibular movements.
- **arrow-point tracing:** A horizontal tracing, which resembles an arrowhead or a gothic arch, made by a tracing device. This represents the posterior border movement of the mandible, and its apex, the most retruded position of the mandible.
- **articulator:** A dental device used to replicate the movement of the patient's mandible allowing simulation of biting and chewing motions (mastication). Can be simple, average value, semi-adjustable, fully adjustable or digital.
- **attrition (dental):** The loss of hard tooth tissue or of a restoration resulting from mastication or from contact between occluding or approximal tooth surfaces.
- **Atwood classifications:** Describes and categorises the progressive resorption of the mandibular alveolar ridge forms (Class I, II, III, IV, V and VI).
- **axial inclination:** The angle of a tooth's long axis relative to a reference plane, significant in preparation and alignment.
- **axial plane:** The horizontal plane in CBCT imaging that divides the body into superior and inferior parts (also called the transverse plane).
- **axial reduction:** The amount of tooth structure removed parallel to the long axis of the tooth during preparation to ensure adequate space for restorative material.
- **axial wall:** The vertical or nearly vertical surface of a tooth preparation that is parallel to the long axis of the tooth.

B

- **backing:** A metal component covering the palatal or lingual surface of a denture tooth or artificial crown.
- **balanced articulation:** Simultaneous contacts of the occluding surfaces of the teeth during function (dynamic relationship).
- **balanced occlusion:** Simultaneous contacts of the occluding surfaces of the teeth in occlusion (static relationship).
- **bar connector:** A bar joining two or more parts of a partial denture.
- **bar attachment:** A bar joining two or more teeth, roots or implant superstructures and supporting and retaining a denture.
- **baseplate:** The temporary or permanent denture base on which an occlusal rim is built or on which a trial denture is set up.

- **Bennett angle:** The angle between the sagittal plane and the path of the advancing condyle during lateral mandibular movement as viewed along the horizontal plane.
- **Bennett movement:** The lateral translation of the mandible during a lateral excursion.
- **bevel:** An angled surface prepared on the margin of a tooth preparation or restoration.
- **bonding agent:** A resin-based material used to promote adhesion between the restorative material and tooth structure.
- **bond strength:** The force per unit area required to separate two bonded surfaces under specified conditions.
- **Bone level implant:** dental implants placed at or below the crestal bone level.
- **border moulding:** The shaping of impression material at the periphery of an impression tray by the manipulation or activity of the soft tissues adjacent to the borders of the denture bearing area.
- **border seal:** The contact between the denture periphery and the adjacent hard and soft tissues which prevents the passage of air.
- **bounded saddle:** A saddle limited at each end by a natural tooth.
- **boxing (of an impression):** The provision of a wall, usually of wax, attached to the periphery of an impression, to contain the cast material until it is set.
- **bracing:** Resistance to horizontal forces acting on a dental prosthesis when fully seated.
- **bracing arm:** A rigid component of a dental prosthesis used to resist lateral (horizontal) displacing forces.
- **bridge:** A fixed dental prosthesis that replaces one or more missing teeth by spanning the edentulous area and anchoring to abutment teeth or implants. *Synonym:* Fixed dental prosthesis (preferred UK term); fixed partial denture (US term).
- **bridge (adhesive):** A fixed dental prosthesis retained by resin bonding, often using metal or ceramic wings on abutment teeth.
- **buccal:** Pertaining to or adjacent to the cheek.
- **buccal corridor:** The visible space between the buccal surfaces of posterior teeth and the corners of the mouth during smiling.
- **build orientation:** The angle at which a restoration is positioned during 3D printing, affecting accuracy, support use, and surface quality.
- **BULL (Buccal Upper, Lingual Lower) Rule:** A guideline used to achieve optimal occlusal balance with a dental prosthesis, ensuring appropriate placement of components, adjusting the buccal cusps of the upper teeth and lingual cusps of the lower teeth, and maintaining the occlusal vertical dimension.
- **burnishing:** The process of smoothing or adapting a metal margin against tooth structure using an instrument or burnisher to enhance marginal seal.

C

- **calibration:** The process of adjusting or standardising dental equipment or operator measurements to ensure accuracy and reproducibility.
- **cast (dental, oral or facial):** A reproduction of the surface form of oral or facial tissues obtained from an impression.
- **cast (verb):** To form a cast from an impression or to form a casting in a mould.

- **catalyst:** The component that accelerates the setting reaction in dental materials.
- **cavosurface angle:** The angle formed by the junction of a prepared cavity wall and the external surface of the tooth.
- **cavosurface margin:** The line of meeting between the prepared cavity wall and the unprepared surface of the tooth.
- **Cawood and Howell classifications:** Describes and categorises the progressive resorption of the maxillary and mandibular alveolar ridge forms (Class I, II, III, IV, V and VI).
- **Cement (adhesive):** A material that forms a micromechanical and/or chemical bond between the tooth surface and restoration.
- **cementation:** The process of luting a dental restoration to a tooth or abutment using a dental cement.
- **cement film thickness:** The minimum thickness of a cement layer between a restoration and a prepared surface after seating.
- **central bearing point:** The stylus of a central bearing device.
- **centric occlusion (CO):** A teeth together position, when the mandible is in centric relation. Centric occlusion may or may not be the same as the intercuspal position.
- **centric relation:** A condylar relationship between the maxilla and mandible on the retruded arc of closure and when the condyles are in the most superior position in the glenoid fossae. This can be recorded as a 'tooth apart' position.
- **chamfer:** A type of finish line design characterised by a concave curve at the junction of the axial wall and the cavosurface. Suitable for metal and some ceramic restorations.
- **check record:** An interocclusal record made to verify a previous interocclusal record and/or to identify a defective occlusal contact (occlusal interference).
- **chroma:** The intensity or saturation of a colour.
- **cingulum:** A bulbous convexity near the cervical margin of the crown of a tooth, typically found on the palatal or lingual surfaces of incisors and canines.
- **cingulum rest:** See rest.
- **circumferential (ring) clasp:** An occlusal approaching clasp lying in contact with the surface of the tooth. The clasp originates on the occlusal (superior) side of the survey line and passes across it with the terminal third of the clasp lying/engaging with the apical (inferior) side of the survey line. The clasp extends at least halfway around the crown of the tooth.
- **clasp:** A metal arm that, when in contact with a tooth, retains and/or stabilises a removable partial denture.
- **clasp axis:** An imaginary rotational axis created when clasps exist on opposite sides of the arch. The major clasp axis is the axis closest to the saddle at risk of dislodgement / rotation. The minor clasp axis (axes) is those furthest away from the saddle. The minor clasp axis / axes have the least influence of dislodgment / rotation of the saddle.
- **closed-tray impression:** An implant impression technique in which the impression coping detaches from the implant abutment and retains within the impression material during impression removal. Analogue abutments are inserted into the impression copings prior to casting the impression.

- **Cobalt-chromium (Co-Cr) alloy:** A metal alloy that can be cast into structures, such as denture frameworks using the lost wax technique.
- **cohesion:** The attraction of like molecules within a substance.
- **cohesive failure:** Fracture occurring within a single material rather than at the interface between two materials.
- **collar (metal collar):** A circumferential band of metal at the cervical margin of a metal–ceramic restoration that provides strength and enhances fit.
- **cold curing acrylic resin:** An acrylic resin whose polymerisation is initiated by a chemical activator without the need for the application of heat and/or pressure.
- **colour:** The visual perception resulting from light reflection and absorption, characterised by hue, value, and chroma.
- **complete denture:** A removable denture replacing the entire maxillary or mandibular dentition and the lost associated tissues.
- **composite resin:** A tooth-coloured restorative material composed of a resin matrix and filler particles, used for direct and indirect restorations.
- **computer-aided-design (CAD):** Technology that uses computer software to create 2D or 3D models of objects.
- **computer-aided-manufacture (CAM):** Technology that uses computer software to control machines to manufacture objects.
- **cone beam computed tomography (CBCT):** A three-dimensional imaging technique that provides volumetric data of dental and maxillofacial structures using a cone-shaped X-ray beam.
- **connector (major):** The component of a removable partial denture that unites other components to form a rigid structure.
- **connector (minor):** A connecting component between the major connector or base of a partial denture and other units, such as clasps and rests.
- **contrast ratio:** A measure of the opacity or translucency of a restorative material.
- **coping:** The thin substructure or framework of a crown or bridge (metal or ceramic) that supports the veneering material.
- **copy denture:** A new complete denture constructed by use of a template copy of a previously worn denture.
- **coronal/frontal plane:** Any plane passing through the body at right angles to the sagittal plane.
- **core build-up:** Restorative material used to replace missing coronal tooth structure to provide an ideal shape and, resistance and retention form for a crown preparation.
- **coronal plane:** A vertical CBCT imaging plane that divides the body into anterior and posterior sections (also known as the frontal plane).
- **crown:** A fixed dental restoration that completely or partially covers the clinical crown of a tooth, restoring its form, function, and aesthetics.
- **curve of Monson:** The curve of occlusion of natural teeth in which each cusp and incisal edge touches or conforms to a segment of the surface of a sphere 4 inches (102mm) in radius, with its centre in the region of the glabella.

- **curve of Spee:** An arc of a circle of 65mm to 70mm radius that touches the tips of all the mandibular teeth when the skull is viewed laterally; when continued, it touches the anterior surface of the condyles.
- **cuspal angle:** The angle between the slope of the cusp and the horizontal plane. According to this definition, the higher the cuspal angle, the steeper the cusp.
- **cuspal reduction:** The process of reducing occlusal cusps during tooth preparation to create space for restorative material and maintain occlusal anatomy.
- **customised (specialised) impression tray:** An impression tray made specifically adapted to a primary casting/model of the maxillary or mandibular arch.

D

- **deep margin elevation:** A conservative dental technique that lifts a subgingival cavity margin to a supra-gingival position using composite resin, improving access for restorative procedures.
- **deflective occlusal contact:** A tooth-to-tooth contact that changes the direction of mandibular movement during closure (occlusal interference).
- **definitive prosthesis:** The final or permanent prosthesis. This may have been preceded by the provisional prosthesis.
- **definitive restoration:** A final, long-term restoration intended for permanent function.
- **dental arch:** The curved structure incorporating the dentition or the residual ridge.
- **dental articulation:** The contact relations between maxillary and mandibular teeth during mastication and parafunctional activity.
- **dental bar:** A major connector that lies on the lingual/palatal surfaces of the anterior teeth, this may provide indirect retention for a partial denture.
- **dental implant:** An endosteal or subperiosteal structure that integrates with the biological tissues (e.g. osseointegration) and stabilises (retains and/or supports) removable and fixed dental prostheses.
- **dental prosthesis:** An artificial replacement for one or more teeth and/or associated structures.
- **dental stone:** A gypsum-based material used for making dental casts/models, typically used for working casts/models in denture construction
- **dentate:** Having natural teeth.
- **denture:** A removable dental prosthesis replacing natural teeth and their associated tissues.
- **denture adhesive:** A substance or material used to enhance the retention of a removable prosthesis.
- **denture base:** That part of the removable denture which rests on the denture-bearing area of the maxillary or mandibular arch.
- **denture-bearing area:** The area of the arch which supports the denture.
- **denture border:** The periphery of the denture base lying at the limits of anatomical extension.
- **denture cleansers:** Specialised cleaning products in the form of tablets and solutions designed to help remove food particles, plaque, bacteria and stains from dentures maintaining hygiene and prevent odour.
- **denture fixative:** A product used to help secure dentures in place which can come in different forms – creams, pastes, powders, strips and pads.
- **denture retention:** The resistance of a denture to vertical movement away from the denture bearing area in a direction that is perpendicular to the occlusal plane.

- **denture space:** A potential space in the mouth which the denture should occupy.
- **denture stability:** The resistance of a denture to displacement by functional forces.
- **denture stomatitis:** Inflammation of the mucosal tissues upon which a denture rests typically as a result of a fungal infection prompted by poor denture hygiene and/or systemic disease.
- **depth groove:** A guide groove placed during tooth preparation to standardise the amount of reduction.
- **diagnostic wax up:** A wax model of a patient's teeth, used to visualise and plan the desired shape, size, alignment and occlusion of restorations before the final procedure.
- **diastema:** A space between two adjacent teeth in the same dental arch.
- **dicom:** A medical imaging file standard that stores volumetric data (e.g., CBCT scans) including metadata and orientation.
- **die:** A positive replica of a prepared tooth, used to fabricate indirect restorations such as crowns, inlays, or onlays.
- **digital dentistry:** The use of digital technologies in dental diagnosis, planning, design, fabrication, and delivery of restorations and prostheses. It encompasses techniques such as CAD/CAM, intraoral scanning, 3D printing, and CBCT imaging.
- **digital facebow:** A virtual method of relating the maxillary arch to cranial reference planes within CAD software.
- **die spacer:** A thin film applied to a die to create space for the luting cement during crown fabrication, ensuring complete seating.
- **die stone:** A gypsum-based material used for making dental casts, typically used in the construction of accurate and precise dies, and with metal-based dentures.
- **digital impression:** A virtual record of the teeth and soft tissues captured using an intraoral scanner instead of conventional impression materials.
- **digital light processing (DLP):** Vat photopolymerisation technique used to 3D print dental models, splints, guides, and provisionals.
- **digital wax up:** A computer-generated model of a patient's teeth, used to visualise and plan the desired shape, size, alignment and occlusion of restorations before the final procedure.
- **direct retainer:** A component of a removable partial denture (e.g. a clasp) that resists dislodgement along the denture's path of withdrawal.
- **direct retention:** The retention of a removable partial denture using direct retainers.
- **dislodgement:** The loss of retention or displacement of a restoration from its preparation.
- **dual-cure resin cement:** An adhesive agent that can be polymerised by both light activation and chemical (self) curing.

E

- **eccentric jaw relation:** See lateral or protrusive jaw relation.
- **eccentric occlusion:** See lateral or protrusive occlusion.
- **Edentulous:** Without natural teeth.
- **elastic impression material:** An impression material capable of being stretched or deformed and returning to its original shape, such as polyvinyl siloxane or polyether.

- **emergence profile:** The contour of a restoration or implant restoration as it emerges from the gingival tissues, ideally replicating the natural tooth.
- **enamel margin:** The outermost edge of a tooth preparation that terminates on enamel, providing a favourable substrate for bonding.
- **envelope of function:** The three-dimensional space contained within the envelope of motion that defines mandibular movement during masticatory function and/or speech.
- **envelope of movement:** The three-dimensional space circumscribed by border movements of a given point of the mandible.
- **equigingival margin:** A preparation finish line placed at the level of the free gingival margin.
- **equipoise / balance of forces:** The concept of balancing forces acting on a removable partial denture, ensuring even distribution of forces during function.
- **esthetic zone:** The region of the mouth that is visible when smiling or speaking, typically the anterior maxillary area. *Synonym:* aesthetic zone (preferred British spelling).
- **excess cement:** Residual luting material that remains beyond the margins of a restoration and may cause peri-implant or periodontal inflammation.
- **extension:** The part of the denture base that extends into the sulcus or onto supporting tissue to enhance support, stability and retention.
- **extra-coronal attachment:** A precision attachment joined to a restoration and situated outside the coronal contour of an abutment tooth.
- **extra-oral tracing:** An arrow-point tracing made on a tracer, part of which extends outside the mouth.

F

- **face-bow:** An instrument used to record the relationship of the maxilla to the terminal hinge axis of rotation of the mandible. [It enables a similar relation to be established between the maxillary casts and the hinge axis of the articulator.]
- **facial seal:** The seal created by contact of the lips and cheeks with the polished surface of a denture.
- **ferrule:** A 360° metal band or encircling structure of a crown that encloses sound tooth tissue to provide resistance to fracture.
- **field of view (FOV):** The volume of anatomy captured in a CBCT scan, varying in size depending on diagnostic requirements.
- **finish line:** The prepared margin on a tooth that defines the boundary for the crown or other restoration.
- **fitting surface:** Aspect of the denture that rests on the denture bearing area.
- **fixed dental prosthesis:** A dental prosthesis that is securely attached to natural teeth, roots, or implants and cannot be removed by the patient. *Synonym:* Bridge (common term); fixed partial denture (US term).
- **fixture (implant):** The component of a dental implant system inserted into the bone that serves as the root analogue and supports the prosthesis. *Synonym:* Implant body.
- **flabby / fibrous Ridge:** A condition in which the bone and soft tissue of the ridge are inadequate, often resulting in poor support for removable prostheses that rest on these tissues.
- **flange (denture):** The part of the denture base that extends over the alveolar ridge into the sulcus, incorporating buccal, labial or lingual areas. Provides stability, retention, extension and soft tissue support.

Partial flange extends partway between the alveolar crest and function depth of the sulcus. Full flange extends to the full depth of the sulcus.

- **foil relief:** Metal foil of various prescribed thicknesses placed on specific areas (e.g. mental foramen) of the master model resulting in the creation of relief chambers in the final prosthesis.
- **Foxes bite plane:** Device with an intra oral bite fork and extra oral alignment bow used to assess and align the maxillary occlusal plane against the ala-tragal line and inter-pupillary line.
- **fovea palatinae:** Two small pits located near the midline of the soft palate, marking the junction between the hard and soft palate. These pits are the ductal openings of surrounding mucous glands.
- **framework:** The substructure of a fixed or removable prosthesis that supports veneering material or artificial teeth.
- **Frankfurt plane:** A plane passing through the lowest point in the margin of the left orbit (orbitale) and the highest point in the margin of each external auditory meatus (porion). [It approximates to the horizontal when the head is in a normal upright position].
- **freedom in centric:** A small area around the intercuspal position in which mandibular movement occurs without tooth contact interference.
- **free end saddle:** A saddle with a tooth at one end only.
- **Free Way Space:** The space remaining when the Occlusal Vertical Dimension is taken away from the Resting Vertical Dimension. The space between the maxillary and mandibular occlusal surfaces when the mandible is in the rest position.
- **frenum:** A fibrous band of tissue, covered by mucous membrane, which passes between the alveolar process and the lip, cheek, or tongue.
- **full coverage restoration:** A restoration that completely covers the occlusal surface of the clinical crown of a tooth, as opposed to a partial coverage restoration such as an onlay or three-quarter crown.
- **functional cusp bevel:** Additional reduction on the functional cusp to provide adequate material thickness and prevent occlusal interference.
- **full sulcus depth:** The maximal depth of the anatomical sulcus.
- **functional sulcus depth:** The depth of the sulcus used to define the maximal border of the denture periphery.
- **functional impression (neutral zone impression):** An impression modified by masticatory loads and adjacent muscular activity to capture the zone of minimal conflict around the mandibular arch.

G

- **gag reflex:** A reflex that can be triggered in patients when certain areas of the oral cavity are touched, often impacting denture procedures and impressions.
- **gel state:** Refers to the solid or semi-solid phase in which a material as set or stiffened after transitioning from it's more fluid sol state in the context of hydrocolloid materials.
- **gingivally-approaching clasp:** A clasp whose arm approaches a tooth from the direction of the gingivae.
- **gingival displacement:** The temporary retraction or deflection of the gingival tissues away from a tooth preparation to allow accurate impression making or margin exposure. *Synonyms:* Gingival retraction, tissue management.

- **gingival margin:** The edge of the gingiva that surrounds the teeth, forming the gingival sulcus.
- **gingival retraction cord:** A small cord placed in the gingival sulcus to physically displace gingival tissue and control moisture during impression making.
- **gingival sulcus:** The natural space between the tooth and the free gingiva, often displaced during impression making.
- **glass ionomer cement (GIC):** A dental luting or restorative material that bonds chemically to tooth structure.
- **glaze:** A smooth, glossy surface produced on ceramic restorations by firing or applying a glazing agent.
- **gold alloy:** A mixture of gold and other metals such as platinum, palladium, or copper used in casting restorations with excellent biocompatibility and workability.
- **gold wire:** A type of wire that can be used to construct denture clasps requiring enhance flexibility, commonly used in aesthetic zones over silver-coloured alternatives, although it is more expensive.
- **golden proportion:** A concept used in restorative dentistry to determine the relative sizes of the teeth for aesthetic dental prostheses, particularly relevant in anterior teeth alignment.
- **green state (ceramic):** The pre-sintered condition of milled ceramic or zirconia that allows easy adjustment before final sintering.
- **green state (3D printing):** The condition of a 3D-printed object immediately after printing but before post-curing or sintering, in which the material has achieved its shape but remains soft, porous, and mechanically weak.
- **greenstick:** Thermoplastic impression material specifically used to modify impression trays, typically melts at 42-45°C.
- **groove:** A linear depression or channel on a prepared tooth surface that provides additional retention or resistance form for a restoration.
- **group function:** Multiple contacts between the maxillary and mandibular teeth on the working side during lateral mandibular movements.
- **guided implant surgery:** A technique using digital planning and surgical templates (often produced via CAD/CAM) to place implants in pre-determined positions.
- **guiding planes:** Two or more parallel tooth surfaces which determine and limit the path of insertion and withdrawal of a removable partial denture.
- **gypsum:** A mineral form of calcium sulphate dihydrate used in the production of dental models and dies when processed as dental stone or plaster.

H

- **hard palate:** The rigid, bony anterior part of the roof of the mouth that separates the oral and nasal cavities.
- **hard reline:** Application of a rigid and durable material (such as cold or heat cured acrylic) to the intaglio (fitting) surface of the denture.
- **healing abutment:** A temporary component attached to a dental implant during soft-tissue healing to shape the peri-implant mucosa and maintain access to the implant.
- **high impact acrylic:** Strengthened acrylic resin sometimes used for denture bases offering greater durability and fracture resistance in comparison to standard acrylic.

- **high lip-line:** The highest level which the margin of the upper lip achieves in function.
- **high-strength ceramic:** A class of ceramics, such as zirconia or lithium disilicate, used for their superior mechanical properties and durability in fixed prosthodontics.
- **hinge articulator:** An articulator with a hinge joint permitting only vertical movement.
- **hinge axis:** A transverse axis about which the mandible can rotate without translatory movement of the condyles.
- **hue:** The basic colour family (e.g., red, yellow) of a tooth or material.
- **hypoallergenic acrylic:** A resin designed to be used for patients sensitive to standard denture acrylics.
- **hypodontia:** The developmental absence of one or more teeth, excluding third molars.

I

- **immediate dentine sealing (IDS):** The application of dentine bonding agent to freshly cut dentine at the time of preparation to improve bond strength.
- **immediate loading:** The placement of a functional prosthesis onto a dental implant within 48 hours of surgery.
- **immediate replacement denture:** A denture fitted immediately after the removal of teeth.
- **implant:** A surgically placed device, usually titanium or zirconia, inserted into the jawbone to support a dental prosthesis.
- **implant analogue:** A laboratory component that replicates the position and dimensions of the dental implant fixture in a working cast.
- **implant abutment connection type:** The design by which the abutment engages the implant (e.g., external hex, internal hex, conical connection).
- **implant–abutment interface:** The junction between the implant fixture and its abutment; its design influences mechanical stability and microbial sealing.
- **implant body:** The portion of the dental implant embedded within bone, also referred to as the fixture.
- **implant crown:** A single crown restoration supported by a dental implant rather than a natural tooth.
- **implant denture:** A denture that is stabilised (retained and/or supported) by the implant superstructure.
- **implant-level impression:** An impression technique in which the implant's position is recorded directly using an impression coping connected to the implant.
- **implant platform:** The top surface of the dental implant fixture where the abutment or prosthetic component is attached.
- **impression:** A negative imprint from which a positive reproduction, or cast/model, can be made.
- **impression compound:** A thermoplastic impression material with mucodisplasive properties, used in particular for edentulous ridges. Commonly comprised of resins (shellac or natural, for rigidity and shape retention), waxes (improving plasticity), filler (enhancing strength and setting properties), stearic acid (lubricant to allow flow) and colouring agents. Typically melts at 42-45°C.
- **impression coping:** A component attached to a dental implant or abutment during impression taking to transfer the three-dimensional position of the implant or abutment to the working cast.
- **impression material:** A substance used to record the form and relationships of the oral tissues, available as elastic or non-elastic types.

- **incisal edge:** The cutting edge of an anterior tooth.
- **incisal edge position:** The spatial location of the incisal edge relative to facial and occlusal planes, critical for aesthetics and phonetics.
- **incisal guidance:** The guidance provided by the surfaces of the maxillary incisors in lateral and protrusive movements of the mandible.
- **incisal guidance table:** That part of an articulator which maintains the incisal angle, can be customised to a patient.
- **incomplete seating:** A condition in which a restoration does not fully seat on its preparation, often due to internal interference or excess cement.
- **indirect restoration:** A restoration fabricated outside the mouth and later cemented or bonded to the tooth.
- **indirect retainers:** A component of a removable partial denture (e.g. a rest) that resists dislodgement or rotation of a denture around a clasp axis. The major clasp axis should be considered when indirect retainers are incorporated into a removable partial denture design.
- **indirect retention:** The retention of a removable partial denture by the use of indirect retainers.
- **infraocclusion:** A position of a tooth or restoration below the occlusal plane.
- **initial contact:** The first meeting of occluding surfaces.
- **inlay:** An indirect restoration that fits within the confines of a prepared cavity.
- **intaglio surface:** That part of a prosthesis that is adapted and shaped to be in harmony with the patient's anatomy.
- **interarch distance:** The vertical space between the maxillary and mandibular arches, measured at a specified point.
- **intercuspal occlusion / intercuspal position (ICP):** Maximal contact (intercuspalation) between opposing teeth, irrespective of the condylar position. The closest position of the dentate maxilla and mandible.
- **intercuspalation:** The interdigitation of cusps of teeth in opposing jaws.
- **interocclusal:** Between opposing occlusal surfaces.
- **interocclusal clearance:** The space between the maxillary and mandibular occlusal surfaces when the mandible is in the rest position.
- **interocclusal record:** A record of a specified relation of opposing occlusal surfaces. The records may be intercuspal, retrusive, protrusive, lateral, and either contact or pre-contact.
- **intraoral scanner:** A device used to capture digital impressions directly from the patient's mouth.
- **interproximal contact:** The area where the proximal surfaces of adjacent teeth touch each other.
- **intracoronal attachment:** A precision attachment, one part of which is totally embedded in a restoration.
- **intracoronal restoration:** A restoration contained entirely within the contours of the clinical crown, such as an inlay.
- **irregular ridge shape:** Refers to an abnormal or uneven contour of the alveolar ridge, often due to tooth loss, bone resorption or other anatomical factors.

J

- **jaw relation:** The relationship between the mandible and maxilla.

- **jaw relation record:** A registration of the positional relationship between the maxillary and mandibular arches, used for articulator mounting or diagnosis.
- **jig:** A device or guide used to position or stabilise components accurately during clinical or laboratory procedures, such as an anterior jig for recording centric relation.

K

- **Kennedy (continuous) bar:** A combination of the major connectors; lingual bar and dental bar.
- **Kennedy classifications:** Categories of partial edentulism based on the location of missing teeth (Class I, II, III, IV).

L

- **labial bar:** A major connector of a partial denture which is placed between the labial gingival margins of the maxillary teeth and the reflection of the labial sulcus.
- **labial surface:** The surface of an anterior tooth facing the lips.
- **lateral excursion:** A lateral movement of the mandible with opposing teeth in contact.
- **lateral interocclusal record:** An interocclusal record made with the mandible in a lateral position.
- **lateral or protrusive jaw relation:** Any jaw relation that is lateral or protrusive to the retruded jaw relation.
- **lateral or protrusive occlusion:** Any occlusion that is not the intercuspal or retruded contact position.
- **ledge:** A distinct horizontal step or finish line created at the cervical region of a tooth preparation.
- **light-curing:** The process of polymerising a resin-based material using a visible blue light source.
- **line angle:** The junction where two surfaces of a tooth or preparation meet, forming an angle.
- **lingual bar:** A major connector of a mandibular partial denture which is placed mid-way between the lingual gingival margins of the mandibular teeth and the floor of the mouth allowing at least 3mm clearance from each aspect.
- **lingual plate:** A major connector of a mandibular partial denture which covers part of the lingual surfaces of the lower anterior teeth and the lingual gingival tissues.
- **lingual surface:** The surface of a tooth facing the tongue.
- **lip line:** A line denoting the position of the upper lip margin.
- **lithium disilicate:** A high-strength glass ceramic used for monolithic and veneered restorations, known for excellent aesthetics and translucency.
- **load transfer:** The distribution of functional stresses from the prosthesis through the abutment or implant fixture to the supporting bone.
- **locator abutment:** A specific type of low-profile implant abutment that provides retention for overdentures using a self-aligning stud attachment system.
- **long axis:** An imaginary line through the centre of a tooth or implant running in an apical-coronal direction.
- **lost wax technique:** A metal casting method that uses a wax model to create a mould. The wax is then melted and drained away, leaving a space for the molten metal to take its place.
- **luting agent:** A material used to fill the space between a restoration and the prepared tooth surface, creating a seal and retaining the restoration in place. *Synonym:* Dental cement.

M

- **mandibular lateral translation:** The non-rotational component of lateral mandibular movement.
- **margin:** The boundary line of a tooth preparation or restoration where the prepared surface meets the unprepared tooth or external surface.
- **marginal adaptation:** The degree of fit between the margin of a restoration and the prepared tooth surface.
- **marginal discrepancy:** The gap or misfit between a restoration margin and the tooth preparation, which can lead to microleakage or cement dissolution.
- **margin design:** The shape and form of the finish line on a tooth preparation, such as chamfer, shoulder, or knife-edge.
- **margin integrity:** The ability of a restoration to maintain a seal at the interface with the tooth structure.
- **marginal ridge:** A ridge situated at the mesial or distal border of the occlusal surface of a premolar or molar tooth. It may be found on the lingual surface of an anterior tooth.
- **master cast:** definitive or working replica (e.g. stone or 3D print) of the denture bearing upon which the denture is constructed.
- **master (secondary) impression:** Definitive or working negative imprint of the denture bearing area.
- **master impression tray:** See customised (special) impression tray.
- **mastication:** Chewing.
- **masticatory system:** The oral structures engaged in mastication.
- **matrix:** An overcast, which can be used as a guide for planning tooth restoration or placement.
- **matrix:** The female component of a precision attachment.
- **maxillomandibular relationship:** Any spatial relationship between the maxilla and mandible, including centric relation, eccentric positions, and vertical dimension.
- **mechanical retention:** The holding of a restoration in place through the geometric design of the preparation, rather than through adhesive bonding.
- **metal–ceramic crown:** A full-coverage restoration consisting of a metal substructure (coping) veneered with porcelain for aesthetics and strength. *Synonyms:* Porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM) crown; porcelain-bonded-to-metal (PBM) crown.
- **microleakage:** The microscopic passage of bacteria, fluids, or ions between a restoration and the tooth surface.
- **milling:** The computer-controlled cutting or grinding process used in CAD/CAM manufacturing of restorations.
- **mock-up:** A provisional or diagnostic simulation of a planned restoration or aesthetic outcome used for visualisation and patient communication. *Synonym:* wax-up.
- **model:** A reproduction of the surface form of oral or facial tissues obtained from an impression.
- **model scanner:** A device used to digitise physical casts or impressions to create a virtual model in CAD/CAM workflows.
- **modified ridge lap pontic:** A pontic design that overlaps the ridge only on the buccal aspect, combining improved aesthetics with better access for oral hygiene.

- **monolithic restoration:** A restoration fabricated entirely from one material, such as monolithic zirconia or lithium disilicate, without veneering porcelain.
- **mould (denture tooth):** Refers to the shapes and size of artificial teeth used in the construction of dentures, selected to match the patient's aesthetics and function. Common mould shapes include ovoid, square and triangular.
- **mounting:** The process of attaching dental casts to an articulator in a predetermined relationship.
- **mucodisplacing impression:** An impression made under conditions of displacing soft tissues under the denture-base.
- **mucocompressive impression:** An impression made with the intention of compressing soft tissues under the denture-base.
- **mucostatic impression:** An impression made with the intention of minimising mucosal displacement.
- **mutually protected occlusion:** An occlusal scheme in which the posterior teeth protect the anterior teeth during centric occlusion, and the anterior teeth protect the posteriors during excursive movements.

N

- **neutral zone:** A zone in which the forces of the cheeks and lips are said to be in equilibrium with those of the tongue. The zone of minimal conflict.
- **non-anatomic tooth:** A prosthetic posterior tooth whose main features do not correspond to human dental anatomy.
- **non-working side:** The side opposite to the working side.
- **non-working side contacts:** The contacts between maxillary and mandibular teeth or denture bases on the non-working side, or posteriorly in a protrusive occlusion.

O

- **occlusal adjustment:** The selective reshaping of occlusal surfaces to achieve harmonious contact relationships.
- **occlusal contact:** The point or area where maxillary and mandibular teeth meet during closure.
- **occlusal interference:** Any undesirable tooth contact that hinders smooth mandibular movement.
- **occlusal path:** The path of movement of one occluding surface over the other.
- **occlusal pivot:** An elevation artificially developed on the occlusal surface, usually in the molar region.
- **occlusal plane:** A common plane established by the incisal edges and occlusal surfaces of the teeth. This is usually curved and is therefore not strictly a plane.
- **occlusal reduction:** The removal of tooth structure from the occlusal surface to provide space for restorative material.
- **occlusal rest:** See rest.
- **occlusal scheme:** The planned arrangement of occlusal contacts and guidance in a restored dentition.
- **occlusal surfaces:** The surfaces of molar or premolar teeth which would normally occlude with an opposing tooth.
- **occlusal table:** The occlusal surfaces and incisal edges of teeth of the dental arch.
- **occlusal vertical dimension:** Any vertical dimension with the teeth or occlusal rims in contact.
- **occlusion:** Any contact between teeth of opposing dental arches.

- **occlusion rim:** Mouldable material attached to a temporary or permanent denture base for the purpose of recording jaw relations and indicating tooth positions.
- **onlay:** An indirect restoration that covers one or more cusps and a portion of the occlusal surface, providing partial coverage of the tooth.
- **onlay denture:** A denture or appliance incorporating a metal or acrylic covering on the occlusal surfaces or incisal edges of natural teeth
- **open contact:** A visible space between two teeth.
- **open margin:** A visible gap between the edge of a restoration and the prepared tooth surface.
- **open-tray impression:** An implant impression technique in which the impression coping is unscrewed through the tray before removal of the impression from the mouth.
- **opposing arch:** The arch that occludes with the one under treatment.
- **opposing dentition:** The teeth in the opposing arch that make contact with, or are related to, a restoration or prosthesis.
- **osseointegration:** The direct structural and functional connection between living bone and the surface of a dental implant.
- **osseointegrated implant:** An implant that has achieved stable bone anchorage through osseointegration, allowing it to support a prosthesis.
- **overbite:** The vertical overlap of the maxillary and mandibular anterior teeth when in occlusion.
- **overclosure:** An occlusal vertical dimension that is too small.
- **overextension:** When the denture base extends beyond the functional boundaries of the oral tissues causing irritation, discomfort or denture instability.
- **ovate pontic:** A pontic design with a convex, rounded tissue surface that sits in a soft-tissue depression or socket, providing excellent aesthetics and the appearance of tooth emergence.
- **overdenture:** A denture, the base of which, covers one or more teeth, prepared roots, or implants and with the presence of a buccal or labial flange in the area of the abutment.
- **overjet:** The horizontal distance between the labial surface of the mandibular incisor and the palatal surface of the maxillary incisor when in occlusion.
- **overlay denture:** A denture or appliance incorporating a metal or acrylic covering on the occlusal surfaces or incisal edges of natural teeth, as well as some of the buccal surface.

P

- **packing (denture):** Filling a mould with a plastic material in order to construct a dental prosthesis.
- **palatal plate connector:** A major connector for a maxillary partial denture that crosses the palate, providing stability and support. Anterior palatal plate is positioned covering the anterior maxilla (horseshoe connector). Middle palatal plate relieves the anterior and posterior maxilla but covers the middle of the palate (mid palatal strap). Posterior palatal plate extends up to the hard and soft palate junction. Combining the anterior and posterior palatal plates allows relief of the middle of the palate (ring connector).
- **parafunction:** Abnormal or excessive use of the masticatory system, such as clenching or bruxism, that may damage teeth or restorations.

- **parallelism:** The condition where two or more surfaces are equidistant along their length, important for multi-unit preparations.
- **partial denture:** A removable denture provided for a partially dentate arch replacing missing teeth and associated tissues.
- **partially dentate:** An arch where some, but not all, natural teeth are missing.
- **passive fit:** The absence of stress or distortion when a prosthesis is seated on its supporting implants or abutments.
- **path of insertion:** The path followed by a denture from its first contact with the teeth or soft tissues until it is fully seated. The path of withdrawal is the converse of this.
- **patrix:** The male component of a precision attachment.
- **pear-shaped pad:** The most distal portion of attached keratinised mucosa overlying the crest of the mandibular ridge at the extraction site of the third molar and situated anterior to the retromolar pad.
- **peri-implantitis:** An inflammatory condition affecting the soft and hard tissues surrounding a dental implant, resulting in bone loss.
- **peripheral seal:** The tight, secure fit of a denture along its furthest extension where it contacts the tissues of the mouth, helping to maintain retention.
- **permanent reline:** The use of a durable material to adjust the fit of a denture with the aim of making it comfortable and stable as a long-term solution.
- **permanent restoration:** A definitive restoration intended to remain in place for an extended period, as opposed to a temporary or provisional restoration.
- **pick-up impression:** An impression technique used to transfer the exact position of implant impression copings or attachments to the master cast.
- **pilot hole:** A small, initial hole drilled in bone to guide the angulation and position of a dental implant.
- **pin retention:** The use of small metallic pins placed into dentine to enhance the retention of a core or restoration.
- **pink wax:** A type of dental wax commonly used for wax of denture bases and modifying impression trays.
- **plaster of Paris:** A gypsum-based material used for securing stone casts/models to articulators or articulation plates. Can also be used as an impression material to capture the edentulous ridge in a mucostatic form.
- **platform switching:** A design concept in which the diameter of the implant abutment is smaller than that of the implant platform to preserve marginal bone.
- **ply:** A colour 3D mesh file format that, unlike stl, can carry vertex colour and texture data useful in aesthetic CAD workflows.
- **polishing:** The process of smoothing a restoration surface to achieve a lustrous, plaque-resistant finish.
- **polished surface:** A surface of the denture, usually polished, which is in contact with the lips, cheeks, or tongue.
- **polymerisation:** The process of joining molecules of small molecular weights into a compound of large molecular weights, usually referring to denture base resins. The process can either be automatically triggered when two components are combined (auto-cure) or by light, heat and/or pressure.

- **polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA):** A common acrylic resin used for provisional restorations and denture construction.
- **pontic:** The artificial tooth that replaces a missing natural tooth in a fixed dental prosthesis, supported by retainers on abutments.
- **pontic design:** The shape of the pontic's gingival tissue-contacting surface (e.g., ridge lap, modified ridge lap, ovate).
- **porcelain:** A ceramic material composed primarily of feldspar, silica, and kaolin, used for aesthetic veneering or full-contour restorations.
- **porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM):** A type of metal–ceramic restoration where porcelain is bonded to a metal coping for strength and aesthetics. *Synonym:* Porcelain-bonded-to-metal (PBM).
- **post:** A rigid metallic or fibre component inserted into a prepared root canal to retain a core or foundation for a crown.
- **post-curing:** The controlled light and/or heat treatment after 3D printing to complete polymerisation and stabilise dimensions.
- **post and core:** A combined restoration consisting of an intraradicular post and a coronal core to support a crown.
- **posterior palatal seal:** The seal developed at the posterior border of a maxillary denture.
- **post dam:** A ridge of denture base material on the posterior border of the maxillary denture impression surface. It displaces the supporting soft tissues to create a seal ideally overlying the hard and soft palate junction. The vibrating line and fovea palatinae can be used to determine the position of the post dam.
- **precision:** The closeness of agreement among repeated measurements; distinct from trueness.
- **precision attachment:** An interlocking device, one component of which is fixed to an abutment (patrix), while the other is incorporated into the prosthesis (matrix).
- **prefabricated attachment:** A manufactured precision attachment.
- **premature contact:** An undesirable occlusal contact prior to intercuspation.
- **preparation taper:** The convergence angle between opposing axial walls of a tooth preparation, typically between 6° and 16°. *Synonym:* Total occlusal convergence.
- **primary (preliminary) impression:** An impression made for the production of a primary cast or model to be used for treatment planning or the construction of an impression tray.
- **process (verb):** To polymerize denture base resin in a mould.
- **procline:** A tooth that is tilted buccally or labially.
- **prosthesis:** An artificial replacement for one or more teeth and/or associated structures. This may be a removable denture or a fixed crown or bridge.
- **prosthodontic space:** The vertical and horizontal space available for placement of restorative components and materials.
- **provisional (temporary) prosthesis:** A dental prosthesis to be used for a short time prior to the construction of a definitive (permanent) replacement. This prosthesis may be used to assess aesthetics, function, construction of the definitive prosthesis or allow for healing of gingival soft tissues.
- **provisional (temporary) restoration:** A temporary restoration designed to protect prepared teeth, maintain aesthetics, and provide function during fabrication of the definitive restoration.

R

- **radiographic stent:** A guide or template containing radiopaque markers used during CBCT scanning to assist in implant planning.
- **radiolucent:** Describing a material or tissue that appears dark on a radiograph due to its low density and high X-ray transmission.
- **radiopaque:** Describing a material or tissue that appears light or white on a radiograph due to high X-ray absorption.
- **rebase:** The partial or complete removal and replacement of the denture base.
- **reciprocal arm:** A component of a removable partial denture used to oppose forces applied to a tooth by a direct retainer (clasp).
- **red carding wax:** A type of wax that can be used to modify impression trays and make temporary adjustments to undercuts.
- **refractory cast:** A heat-resistant model used in the fabrication of metal–ceramic substructures or all-ceramic restorations.
- **registration rim:** A wax or acrylic base used in denture construction to record details of tooth positioning and jaw relationships including occlusion and vertical dimension.
- **regular ridge shape:** Refers to the natural and typical contour of the form of the alveolar ridge.
- **relief chambers:** Small spaces or voids created in the denture base to avoid these areas of the denture bearing area being compressed during function.
- **reline:** The addition of material to the fitting surface of a denture base to improve fit; can be completed in soft, resilient or hard materials.
- **remake:** The fabrication of a new restoration when the original fails to meet clinical or laboratory standards.
- **removable dental prosthesis:** A dental prosthesis that can be removed and replaced.
- **removal torque:** The rotational force required to unscrew an implant abutment or component retention screw, used as a measure of joint stability.
- **replica denture:** A duplicate of an existing denture.
- **residual cement:** Luting agent left at the margins of an implant restoration, which can cause peri-implant inflammation.
- **residual ridge:** The remaining alveolar ridge after tooth extraction.
- **resilient lining:** A type of denture reline that uses a soft, flexible material to provide cushioning and enhance comfort.
- **resin cement:** A luting agent based on resin polymers, providing high strength, low solubility, and excellent adhesion to tooth structure and restorative materials.
- **resin infiltration (shade):** The penetration of low-viscosity resin into a porous ceramic or tooth substrate to alter optical properties.
- **resin–ceramic bonding:** The adhesion strategy combining surface preparation (e.g., HF etch for glass-ceramics), silane, and resin cement.

- **resistance form:** The features of a tooth preparation that prevent dislodgement of a restoration by forces other than along the path of insertion.
- **rest:** A component of a removable partial denture that provides support to the denture against vertical load towards the denture bearing area. Types of rests include occlusal, incisal, and cingulum rests.
- **resting jaw relationship:** The relationship of the mandible to the maxilla when the mandible is in the rest position.
- **resting mandibular position:** The physiological relaxation position of the mandible, where the muscles are in a relaxed state.
- **rest seat:** A portion of a tooth that has been prepared to receive a rest component, the tooth provides support and prevents displacement of a partial denture.
- **resting vertical dimension (RVD):** The vertical dimension with the mandible in the rest position.
- **resting face height:** The height of the face when the mandible is in the rest position.
- **retainer:** The component of a fixed dental prosthesis that attaches to an abutment tooth or implant and supports the pontic.
- **retention:** The resistance of a denture to displacement under the forces of mastication perpendicular to the denture bearing area.
- **retentive clasp arm:** A flexible component that engages an undercut on a tooth to retain a denture.
- **retentive form:** The aspects of a tooth preparation that resist dislodgement of a restoration along its path of insertion.
- **retrievability:** The ability to remove and replace a prosthesis without damaging the abutment components.
- **retrocline:** A tooth that is tilted palatally or lingually.
- **retromolar pad:** A mass of glandular tissue, covered by non-keratinised epithelium, situated on the mandible posterior to the third molars.
- **retromylohyoid fossa:** A fossa on the lateral wall of the lingual sulcus posterior to the mylohyoid muscle.
- **retruded arc of closure:** The arc described by any point on the mandible during a closing movement from maximum opening made with the condyles in their most superior positions in the glenoid fossae (the terminal hinge axis/CR).
- **retruded contact position (RCP):** The position of the mandible on the retruded arc of closure when tooth contact first occurs whilst both condyles are in their most superior position in the glenoid fossae.
- **retruded jaw relationship / retruded axis position (RAP):** A condylar position; the relationship of the mandible to the maxilla with the mandible in its most retruded position.
- **ridge lap pontic:** A pontic design with a convex tissue surface that overlaps the residual ridge, providing aesthetic coverage but limited cleansability.
- **ridge shape:** Contour of the form of the alveolar ridge.
- **rigid connector:** A non-movable joint in a fixed dental prosthesis that unites the pontic and retainer into a single unit.
- **root face:** The prepared surface of a root that receives a post or attachment.

S

- **saddle:** The part of the base of a partial denture that rests on the edentulous / residual ridge.
- **sagittal plane:** A vertical anatomical plane that divides the body or head into left and right sections. In CBCT imaging, it provides a lateral view useful for implant planning and occlusal assessment.
- **scan body:** A specially shaped component attached to a dental implant during digital impression taking to register the three-dimensional position of the implant.
- **scan strategy:** The prescribed sequence and angulations used during intraoral scanning to minimise stitching errors.
- **scanner:** A device that captures digital images or 3D data, used in digital dentistry for intraoral scanning or model digitisation.
- **screw (abutment):** The screw that secures an abutment or prosthesis to the implant fixture, providing mechanical retention.
- **screw loosening:** The partial or complete loosening of an implant screw joint, resulting in instability or prosthesis movement.
- **screw-retained restoration:** A dental restoration that is directly attached to an implant or abutment with a retaining screw, allowing retrievability without cement.
- **screw access channel:** The opening within a screw-retained restoration through which the retaining screw is accessed.
- **secondary impression:** See Master impression.
- **sectional denture:** A denture consisting of two or more separable sections, connected with a mechanical device or precision attachment.
- **sectional impression:** An impression technique where segments of an arch are recorded separately and reassembled to create a full-arch model.
- **selective etch:** An adhesive technique in which phosphoric acid etchant is applied only to enamel margins, leaving dentine unetched, before using a self-etch or universal adhesive.
- **selective grinding:** The planned adjustment of the occlusal forms of teeth by grinding only specific areas.
- **selective laser sintering (SLS):** A powder-bed 3D printing process that fuses material with a laser; used for certain metal frameworks.
- **self-etch:** An adhesive strategy in which an acidic primer simultaneously etches and primes enamel and dentine, eliminating the separate acid-etch step.
- **shade selection:** The process of matching the colour of a restoration to surrounding dentition, based on hue, value, and chroma.
- **shoulder finish line (margin):** A finish line design characterised by a distinct 90° angle between the axial wall and the prepared margin, commonly used for all-ceramic crowns.
- **shoulder-bevel finish line (margin):** A shoulder margin with an added bevel at its outer edge to enhance marginal seal and reduce stress concentration.
- **silicone impression material:** A type of elastic impression material used to take impressions of teeth and oral tissues. Available in a variety of viscosities – putty, heavy body, medium (regular/monophase) body and light body. Types include condensation-cured and addition-cured such as polyvinyl siloxane (PVS).
- **sintering:** The process of compacting and heating ceramic or metal powders below their melting point to form a dense solid structure.

- **spot grinding:** The selective removal of small areas of occlusal surfaces to adjust occlusion.
- **smile line:** The curvature formed by the incisal edges of the maxillary anterior teeth in relation to the upper lip during smiling.
- **socketed denture (flange-less):** Denture teeth that fit into the sockets where natural teeth once were
- **soft palate:** The soft and muscular part of the mouth's roof that aids in swallowing, breathing and speech
- **soft reline:** A flexible, cushioning material applied to the inside of a denture to improve comfort.
- **soft tissue emergence:** The contour of soft tissue around an implant or restoration as it transitions from the gingival margin to the prosthesis. (see emergence profile.
- **soldering:** The process of joining metal components using a filler metal (solder) with a lower melting point than the parent alloys.
- **sol state:** the liquid-like phase of a material in the context of hydrocolloids where the substance is in a fluid or semi-fluid form.
- **spherical amalgam:** A type of dental amalgam alloy composed of spherical particles, allowing improved handling and condensation.
- **split-cast technique:** The process which allows casts/models to be removed and accurately replaced on an articulator or articulator plate by scoring the mounting surface of the cast/mould prior to articulation.
- **stability:** The resistance of a denture to movement or displacement under functional load.
- **stainless steel wire:** A corrosion-resistant metal alloy commonly used for denture clasps offering strength and durability. The material is formed by drawing the alloy into long wires which gives the material flexibility.
- **stent:** A guide or template used intraorally to assist in accurate implant placement or prosthesis fabrication.
- **stereolithography (SLA) printing:** Vat photopolymerisation technique used to 3D print dental models, splints, guides, and provisionals.
- **sticky wax:** A type of wax which can be melted and used to temporarily fix components in position for repairs.
- **stl:** Standard Tessellation Language. A triangulated surface mesh format widely used for dental CAD that does not encode colour or texture.
- **stock Tray:** A pre-formed impression tray used to take initial impressions, typically made from metal or plastic.
- **stud attachment:** An attachment with a stud-shaped matrix used to retain removable partial dentures containing the matrix housing.
- **study cast:** A cast used for diagnosis and treatment planning, often made from a primary impression.
- **stump shade:** The colour of the prepared tooth substrate, which can influence the final shade of translucent ceramic restorations.
- **subcrestal implant placement:** Positioning of the implant platform below the alveolar crest level.
- **subgingival margin:** A restoration margin that extends below the gingival margin.
- **sub-lingual bar:** A major connector placed on the floor of the mouth, occupying the functional width and depth of the lingual sulcus.
- **substructure:** The underlying framework of a restoration that supports the veneering material.

- **sulcus:** The space between the alveolar ridge/teeth and the lips/cheeks; the flange of dentures often sit here.
- **superstructure:** The part of a prosthesis built upon a substructure, often referring to the visible restorative component above an implant framework.
- **support (denture):** The resistance of a denture to occlusally directed forces (towards the denture bearing area).
- **supporting bone:** The alveolar bone that provides structural support to a tooth or dental implant.
- **supporting tissue:** The oral soft tissues that provide stability and retention for restorations and prostheses.
- **supragingival margin:** A finish line located coronal to the gingival margin to aid cleans-ability and visual inspection.
- **surface roughness:** The irregularities on the surface of a material that influence bonding, plaque accumulation, and light reflection.
- **survey:** The procedure carried out using a surveyor to determine planes of parallelism and positions of maximum bulbosity on both hard and soft tissues.
- **survey line:** The line on a cast indicating the maximum convexity (bulbosity) of a tooth or the alveolar process in relation to a planned path of insertion.
- **survey path:** The direction of the surveyor rod in relation to the cast orientation. The survey path is the path of insertion and withdrawal of the denture.
- **surveyor:** An instrument used to survey casts, prepare parallel surfaces, and assist in planning partial dentures.

T

- **taper:** The degree of convergence between opposing walls of a tooth preparation, influencing the retention of the restoration.
- **terminal hinge axis (THA):** A condylar position; the relationship of the mandible to the maxilla with the mandible in its most retruded position.
- **temporary cement:** A weakly retentive luting material used for retrievability of provisional restorations.
- **temporary reline:** A short-term reline to a denture to improve fit and comfort, typically whilst waiting for a permanent reline or the construction of new dentures.
- **thermoplastic material:** A type of material that softens when heated and hardens when cooled, allowing it to be reshaped multiple times, commonly used in flexible dentures and impression compounds
- **thermosetting material:** A type of material that permanently hardens when heated and cured making it resistant to melting or reshaping, commonly used in denture base materials.
- **three-dimensional printing (3D printing):** A manufacturing process that creates objects by building them layer-by-layer from a digital model.
- **three-dimensional denture (3D denture, digital denture):** A denture, which in some way, has been manufactured using 3D design and/or manufacture.

- **tin-foil relief:** A technique in denture processing in which a thin layer of tinfoil is placed over the cast before packing acrylic resin, creating a relief chamber and a glossy surface on the denture base (see foil relief).
- **tissue-borne** (mucosa borne): A term describing a denture supported by the mucosa and alveolar ridge.
- **tissue conditioning material:** A temporary material used to assist in the return of denture-bearing tissues to their normal condition.
- **tissue level implant:** dental implants placed above the crestal bone level.
- **tissue punch:** A circular cutting instrument used to remove a small area of soft tissue for implant placement or exposure.
- **tissue (fit) surface:** The surface of a denture that meets the denture-bearing tissues.
- **tooth-borne:** A term describing a denture supported by natural teeth.
- **tori:** Plural, see torus.
- **torque wrench:** A calibrated instrument used to apply a specific rotational force when tightening retention screws.
- **torus:** A bony growth or prominence that can typically occur in the hard palate (palatal torus) or along the lingual aspect of the lower jaw (mandibular torus).
- **total-etch (etch-and-rinse):** An adhesive technique involving phosphoric acid etching of enamel and dentine before applying primer/adhesive.
- **transitional denture:** A partial denture that is progressively enlarged by adding replacements for extracted teeth until it becomes a complete denture.
- **translucency:** The degree to which light passes through a material, affecting the aesthetic appearance of ceramics.
- **trial :** The clinical evaluation of a restoration or prosthesis before final cementation or delivery to assess fit, occlusion, and aesthetics.
- **trial denture:** A temporary arrangement of teeth in wax for assessing the fit, function, and aesthetics of a denture.
- **tripodisation:** The establishment of three points of occlusal contact during mandibular closure to achieve stable articulation.
- **true-ness:** The closeness of a measurement to the actual (true) value; with precision defines overall accuracy.
- **try-in paste:** A non-setting, shade-matched medium used to preview the effect of resin cement under translucent restorations.

U

- **u-shaped palate:** Refers to the broad, curved shaped of the palate.
- **undercut:** The area of a tooth or soft tissue surface which is beyond the survey line when viewed along the survey path.
- **undercut blackout:** The process of filling or eliminating undercuts on a die/model before fabricating a restoration/prosthesis.

- **under extension:** When the dentures base does not fully extend to the functional boundaries, leading to poor support, retention and stability.
- **universal adhesive:** A contemporary bonding agent designed for multiple strategies (total-etch, self-etch, selective-etch).
- **universal shade guide:** A standardised reference chart used to select the colour of restorative materials to match natural dentition.
- **upper arm/member:** The superior component of an articulator upon which the maxillary cast is mounted.

V

- **value:** The lightness or darkness of a colour; one of the three dimensions of colour along with hue and chroma, and the most perceptible factor in shade matching.
- **v-shaped palate:** Refers to the narrow, pointed shape of the palate.
- **vaulted palate:** Refers to a high, arch shaped palate.
- **veneer:** A thin layer of restorative material, usually ceramic or composite resin, bonded to the labial surface of a tooth to improve aesthetics.
- **veneering porcelain:** The ceramic material applied over a substructure (usually metal or zirconia) to provide aesthetics and contour.
- **vertical dimension (of the face):** A measurement of the face made between selected points above and below the mouth, usually in the mid-line.
- **vibrating line:** The line of junction between the moving tissues of the soft palate and the static tissues anterior to them.
- **visible light cured acrylic:** A type of dental acrylic resin that hardens when exposed to visible light (command set), often used to make customised impression trays.
- **Viscogel:** A brand of material used in prosthodontics, typically in the making of functional impressions due to its material properties. Can also be used as a tissue conditioner or temporary reline.
- **visual shade matching:** The process of selecting a tooth colour under controlled lighting and environmental conditions.
- **void:** An air bubble or gap within an impression or restoration that may compromise accuracy or strength.
- **volumetric accuracy:** The degree to which a digital or physical model reproduces the true three-dimensional dimensions of the scanned object.

W

- **wash impression:** Detailed impression used to capture fine details, often done within a copy template or denture for the purposes of relining or rebasing a denture.
- **wax pattern:** A detailed replica of the desired restoration shape formed in wax, used in the lost-wax casting process.
- **wax try-in:** A trial arrangement of denture teeth set in wax, evaluated intraorally for aesthetics, phonetics, and occlusion before final processing.
- **wear facet:** A polished, flat area on enamel or restorative material produced by occlusal or parafunctional contact.

- **Willis bite gauge:** A device for measuring facial dimensions (e.g. RVD and OVD).
- **Wiptam wire:** A type of flexible wire used for clasps, an alloy with high flexibility.
- **workflow (digital):** The ordered sequence from data acquisition (IOS/CBCT) through design (CAD), manufacture (CAM/print/mill), and verification.
- **working cast:** The definitive model on which the restoration or prosthesis is fabricated, accurately reproducing the prepared teeth and their relationships.
- **working side:** The side towards which the mandible moves in a lateral movement.
- **working side contacts:** The contacts between maxillary and mandibular teeth or denture bases on the working side, or anteriorly in a protrusive occlusion.

X

- **xerostomia:** A condition of dry mouth caused by reduced salivary flow.

Y

- **yellow wax:** See sticky wax.
- **yttria content (zirconia):** The stabiliser proportion in zirconia (e.g., 3Y-TZP, 4Y, 5Y) that influences translucency and mechanical properties.

Z

- **zinc oxide-eugenol impression paste:** A rigid-setting impression material mixed with two pastes: one containing zinc oxide and an oil (e.g., liquid paraffin), and the other containing resin, such as colophony dissolved in eugenol.
- **zirconia:** A polycrystalline ceramic material (zirconium dioxide, ZrO_2) known for its high strength, fracture toughness, and biocompatibility, used in monolithic or veneered restorations.
- **zirconia coping:** The substructure made of zirconia that supports veneering porcelain in metal-free restorations.
- **zinc phosphate cement:** A traditional non-adhesive luting agent composed of zinc oxide and phosphoric acid.
- **zinc polycarboxylate cement:** A luting agent that chemically bonds to tooth structure via chelation of calcium ions.
- **zone of keratinised tissue:** The width of keratinised gingiva surrounding a tooth or implant, important for peri-implant health and hygiene.

References:

Ogden, A. Guidelines in Prosthetic and Implant Dentistry BSSPD. London: Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd. for the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry (1996)