



CASE STUDY

PROSTHODONTIC REHABILITATION OF AN ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA PATIENT

***Dr. Anupam Singh, Dr. (Prof.) D. K. Singh, Dr. Irfan-ul-Huda and Dr. Prateek Pandey**

Department of Prosthodontics, Patna Dental College and Hospital, India

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 22nd June, 2016
Received in revised form
16th July, 2016
Accepted 29th August, 2016
Published online 30th September, 2016

Key words:

Anodontia, Ectodermal dysplasia,
Hypodontia, Overdenture,
Prosthodontic management of
ectodermal dysplasia.

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Citation: Dr. Anupam Singh, Dr. (Prof.) D. K. Singh, Dr. Irfan-ul-Huda and Dr. Prateek Pandey, 2016. "Prosthodontic rehabilitation of an Ectodermal dysplasia patient" *International Journal of Current Research*, 8, (09), 39007-39012.

INTRODUCTION

Ectodermal Dysplasia (ED) is a congenital syndrome which is characterized by abnormal development of tissues of ectodermal origin like skin, nails, hair, sweat glands, sebaceous glands, salivary glands and teeth. (Gorlin *et al.*, 2001; Wynbrandt and Ludman, 1990) ED has more than 150 variants (possible types). (Pinheiro *et al.*, 1994; Freire-Maia, 1994) This is usually described as hypohidrotic or hidrotic depending upon degree of function of sweat glands. It commonly affects males. (Rimoin *et al.*, 1996) Females, however, are affected sometimes. ED is mostly inherited as an x-linked recessive trait. (Rimoin *et al.*, 1996; Clarke, 1987) Incidence is 1-7 in per 100,000 live births. (Buyse, 1990) Affected individuals present some classical features like fine, sparse hair, thin eyebrows and eyelashes, frontal bossing, saddle nose, small palatal and cranial base width, small malar processes, dry oral mucosa, hoarse voice quality, midface hypoplasia, protuberant lips, anodontia or hypodontia, reduced salivary gland development leading to various degree of xerostomia. Some cases show decreased function of certain components of immune system, i.e, decreased lymphocytic function, cellular immune hypofunction causing increased susceptibility to certain infection and allergic condition. Variable degree of

hypohidrosis are present frequently with significant episodes of hyperthermia in infancy and early childhood.⁹⁻¹⁷ The above mentioned features result in afflicted individuals having a prematurely aged appearance which can have tremendous negative impact on the individual by affecting their self-esteem because of the absence of most of the deciduous and permanent teeth, early and extensive dental treatment throughout the childhood is needed. Prosthodontic management of ED can include fixed partial denture (mostly crowns to improve morphology of peg-shaped tooth), removable partial denture, overdenture, complete dentures (in anodontia cases) or implant supported prosthesis. (Nowak, 1988) These treatment modalities can be used individually or in combination.

Case report

A 13-year old girl was referred to the department of Prosthodontics of Patna Dental College & Hospital, Patna complaining of missing teeth and difficulty in mastication. She was accompanied by her father. He gave the history of missing teeth since her childhood. None of the family members or relatives were known to have a similar condition.

Extra-oral examination

Revealed the typical features of ectodermal dysplasia like frontal bossing, depressed nasal bridge. The lips were

*Corresponding author: Dr. Anupam Singh,
Department of Prosthodontics, Patna Dental College and Hospital, India.

protuberant. The skin was dry, scaly and wrinkled. The palms and soles were hyperkeratotic. The nails were either poorly developed or absent in some of the toes. There was extensive pigmentation of skin around mouth and eyes. She had a concave profile with a pointed chin. The neck of the patient showed numerous tubercular scars indicative of previous tuberculosis infection suggestive of poor immune system.



Fig.: Frontal view of the patient



Fig. Profile view of the patient



Fig. Poorly Developed Nails



Fig. Palmar Keratosis

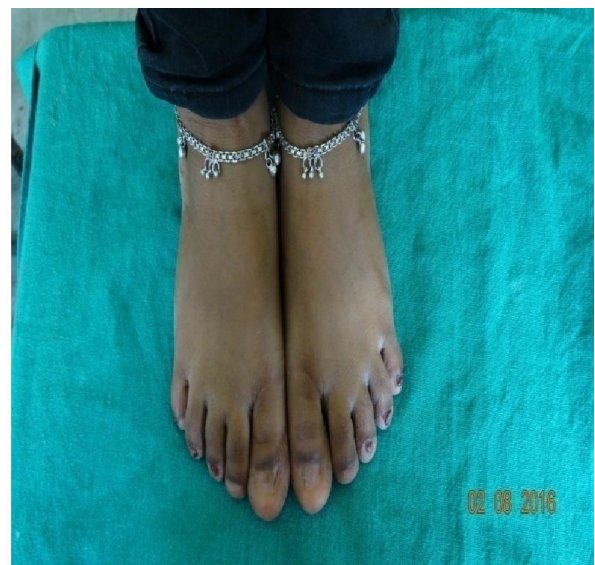


Fig. Toes Without Nails



Fig. Keratosis of Sole

Intra-oral examination

revealed dry mucosa and large tongue. Saliva was thick and ropy. Maxillary arch has three teeth-2 molars and a canine while mandibular arch had two standing molars-one on either side of the arch. Maxillary canine was mobile. The alveolar processes were poorly developed. The deficient growth of alveolar process and mandibular over closure resulted in a distinctly aged, prognathic appearance similar to an edentulous person. Orthopantomogram x-ray revealed the presence of a permanent tooth bud of maxillary right second molar.



Prosthetic management

In this case, the mobile right maxillary canine was first of all extracted. The root was almost resorbed. In order to preserve whatever alveolar bone was present teeth supported maxillary overdenture and a removal partial denture for mandibular arch were considered.

- Both the maxillary molars were reduced to serve as overdenture abutments without performing endodontic treatment as the roots were not properly developed (with an immature root apex). Alginate impression of prepared teeth was made to fabricate metal copings.
- Metal copings were cemented on to the reduced teeth in the next appointment to protect them from caries.
- Preliminary impressions of both the arches were made.
- Custom trays were prepared using auto polymerizing acrylic resin after giving spacer to the relief areas like incisive papilla, mid-palatine raphe and crest of mandibular ridge.
- Border moulding was done using green stick compound.
- Secondary impression were made using silicone impression material and master casts were obtained.
- Record bases were made on those master casts to establish maxilla-mandibular relation. Fullness of face, appearance of lips, height of lower face compared to upper, freeway space and phonetics test were taken into consideration. The cast were articulated once satisfactory maxilla-mandibular relation was made.
- While arranging teeth, basic denture guidelines for teeth placement were followed. Due to reduced arch length and width, teeth of small size and reduced occlusal table were used. While arranging teeth neutral zone concept was followed.

- Trial dentures were checked for retention, occlusion, phonetics and esthetics.
- Trial dentures after approval by the patient and her father, were processed using heat cure acrylic resin. After polishing, the dentures were ready for insertion.
- The prosthesis were inserted. Fit was verified. The girl was taught about insertion and removal of prosthesis and post-operative instructions on hygiene and maintenance were given.
- After 24 hours, patient was recalled for the first post-insertion follow-up. Problem areas were corrected.
- Afterwards she was scheduled for 1 week, 1 month, 3 months and 6 months follow up appointments.



Fig. Intra-oral view



Fig. Extracted canine



Fig. Poorly developed alveolar RIDGE



Fig. Cemented metal copings



Fig. Wax spacer with relief

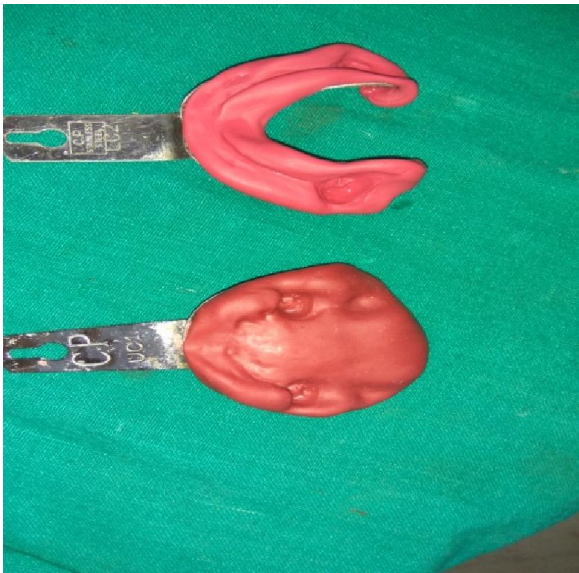


Fig. Primary impression



Fig. Custom trays

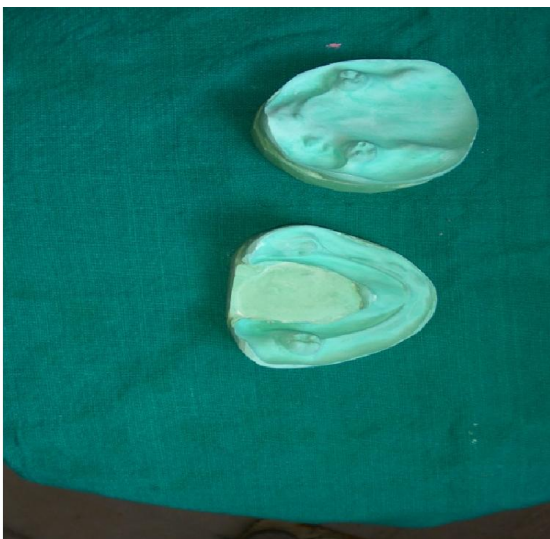


Fig. Primary cast



Fig. Border moulding and secondary impression



Fig. Prosthesis



Fig. Dentures in mouth



Fig. Confident and smiling

DISCUSSION

This clinical report aims to describe the prosthodontic management of a 13-year old girl affected by ectodermal dysplasia. The mobile tooth with poor prognosis was extracted. Maxillary molars were modified to serve as over denture abutments while in lower jaw a RPD was given as lower molar

teeth were not fully erupted. They may serve as (remained) as potential overdenture abutment. Underdevelopment of alveolar ridges and xerostomia in ED patients make denture retention and stability difficult. Due to presence of erupting teeth and continued growth and development of jaws, periodic recall of patient is important for modification and/or replacement of prosthesis. Endosseous implants can be considered once the full growth is achieved. Early dental intervention can improve appearance and build confidence of the patient. Psychological scarring can thus be minimized.

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