CLINICAL AND LABORATORY MANUAL OF IMPLANT OVERDENTURES

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Dedication

I am dedicating this book to the memory of my beloved daughter Melody. I wrote most of this book sitting next to her hospital bed during her fight with neuroblastoma cancer. She was a symbol of strength and hope in life.


And...
To my parents, Mehdi and Minoo, who gave me a love of life,
To my wife Maryam, who gave me a life of love,
To my daughter Ava, who gave joy and meaning to it all.
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Foreword

With all of the books available today on implants, it is refreshing to see one that is so well documented and thought out. It is a great honor for me to write this Foreword for Dr. Shafie’s Clinical and Laboratory Manual of Implant Overdentures. With more than 20 million Americans being fully edentulous, there is no better time for this book to be written and utilized. Undergraduate programs across the country are finally realizing that the two implant overdenture is, by far, the recommended treatment of choice over leaving someone fully edentulous. The amount of bone loss that we in dentistry have seen in fully edentulous patients during past generations is frightening to consider. We actually thought and were teaching that this avascular bone atrophy was “normal” and continuous after extraction. What we now know is that two implants in the anterior mandible will stop this progressive bone loss and preserve the ridge instead of compressing it slowly as time passes.

Dr. Shafie should be complimented for his outstanding and detailed work. He describes each chapter with diagrams that are easy to follow, along with clinical pictures to document his thoughts. He also has covered the various abutment connections from many of the commercial companies that are being used today by clinicians all over the world. The discussion of occlusion and loading is particularly important for the technician and the clinician to understand. This manual is well organized and easy to follow with its step by step breakdown of each topic and technique. Besides the different implants and abutments that are available, the manual also goes into great detail on the construction of bars and how to best utilize them for different clinical situations. There is even a practice management chapter to help the clinician incorporate this technology into a practice. This clinical laboratory manual should become the gold standard for technicians and clinicians when dealing with overdentures. My deepest congratulations for a job well done to Dr. Shafie and his contributors.

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Foreword

Given the increasing number of totally edentulous patients around the world, having the knowledge to plan treatment and place and restore implant-supported overdentures is more important than ever. Totally edentulous patients can become dentally-functional through the placement of dental implants to support complete dentures. It is a great injustice to allow patients, especially those who are financially restricted, to go through their lives without the renovating benefit of implants. The best venue for dentists to learn to treat patients with implants is in dental school as part of the regular curriculum. Dental education around the world has been lacking in training dental students about implantology, especially with regards to implant-supported complete dentures. This inadequacy has forced many dentists to seek training in implantology through short courses sponsored by implant companies. With several hundred implant systems available today, making sense of different options, surgically and prosthetically, is a monumental task. Dentists need accurate information regarding all aspects of implantology, presented scientifically and without commercial bias, and this book has fulfilled those requirements. Dr. Hamid Shafie has authored a very comprehensive and complete book that addresses the most common problems general dentists face in restoring implant-supported dentures. Clinical and Laboratory Manual of Implant Overdentures is invaluable as an educational tool and will be effective as a resource for both inexperienced and experienced dentists in treating edentulous patients. As a prostodontic alumnus of Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Shafie has used his vast knowledge and experience to put together a very informative book on how to plan treatment and how to utilize attachments in implant-supported removable dentures. I congratulate Dr. Shafie for his hard work in compiling this information and presenting it in such a logical manner.

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CLINICAL AND LABORATORY MANUAL OF IMPLANT OVERDENTURES