FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS SERIES:
FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS OF BIOMECHANICAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT PLANNING

The DATA Appliance – Part II:
Appointment Management and Interpretation
(EDITED)

Introduction:

The DATA appliance is part of the Physiologically Driven Treatment System and is utilized to assist the diagnosis and treatment of Masticatory System Biomechanical disorders ("DATA" is a proprietary registered trademark owned by Dr. Karl E Hegyi for dental appliances used for diagnosing and treating biomechanical issues of the Masticatory System). This document describes its use in the diagnostic phase, where the goal of DATA appliance utilization is to assist in determining the patient's *Integrated Classification Type*. This involves evaluating and classifying each of the three primary biomechanical elements – *TM-Joint Stability*, *Functional Occlusion*, and *Parafunctional Activity*. Combined, they determine *Patient Type*, which guides appropriate occlusal and restorative management and treatment.

Appointment I (D-I): Initial Seating and Adjustment of DATA Appliance
See "DATA Appliance Seating Protocol" Document

Appointment II (D-II): One-Week Follow-up
The first follow up visit is one week after initial seating. The following are done at this visit:
- Confirm patient compliance and response of masticatory muscles and TM-Joints to the DATA Appliance
- Determine "first point of contact" history (the first teeth that touch when the DATA Appliance is removed, and the patient attempts to lightly tap their posterior teeth).
- Gather information regarding the patient's TM-Joint Mechanical Stability, Functional Occlusion, and Parafunctional Activity
- Confirm there is no posterior tooth contact with the DATA appliance in place, and take a preliminary CR/PSCP bite registration, with the DATA appliance in, with firm closing pressure.

Appointment III (D-III): Verification/Consultation
This appointment is three weeks after the DATA appliance is seated, or two weeks after stabilization of patient "first point of contact" and reduction of *existing* masticatory muscle and TM-Joint pain have occurred. The objectives of this visit are the following:
- First, verify accuracy of casts, bite registration, and mounting.
- Second, the Integrated Classification System "Patient Type" is determined.
- Third, a treatment consultation should be done.

> When patients actually see what will be done and understand it, their acceptance is much better, and they are more comfortable with the entire process. The diagnostic reshaping should not take more than about five to ten minutes - and is worth every second of it.

Appointment III-A (D-IIIA): the Refractory Patient

At Appointment II, if a patient has not responded to the DATA Appliance favorably, it will likely involve one of three problems:

1) Maintenance or worsening of *existing* masticatory muscle or TM-Joint symptoms,
2) *New* masticatory muscle or TM-Joint symptoms
3) Lack of "first point of contact" stabilization

It is our responsibility to find the cause(s).

Note:
This document is an edited version of an original document. The original document is part of a course manual and designed to be supplemented with lecture and clinical experience from that course. It is not possible to provide the knowledge or experience needed to properly use the DATA Appliance in a clinical situation with this or any other document alone. It is strongly recommended that you first attain appropriate training prior to using the DATA Appliance. This is to assure both safe and effective utilization.

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