How Does Digital Technology Shape The Future Of Prosthodontics?

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Digitization has become an important part of the contemporary prosthodontics because most of the prosthodontic procedures can be performed with the digital technologies. Patient management, diagnosis, tooth preparation, making impressions, recording jaw movements, shade selecting, and prosthesis manufacturing, etc., all have become or are becoming digital. CAD-CAM has revolutionized not just the fixed prosthodontics (e.g., all-ceramic restoration) but has also been used for the CAD-CAM RPD, Complete denture, implant therapies, maxillofacial prosthesis, esthetic dentistry, virtual articulators and digital face bows, robot articulator, or in the field of training, education and research by the use of virtual patient programs, and others. The digitization and technology in prosthodontics can be used both in the clinical and lab procedures such as the use of CAD-CAM technology, stereolithography, rapid prototyping, and etc. This speech presents various aspects of prosthodontics where digital technology has modified the conventional procedures. The precision, efficiency, accuracy, and its revolutionary changes that the digital technologies bring to prosthodontics will be discussed based on the experiences of Peking University. The usage of digitization and digital prosthodontics has shown a splendid future to all clinicians. The digitization is shaping the future of prosthodontics.

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