I. Introduction

Oligodontia is defined as a condition in which a tooth germ developmental disorder leads to defects in at least 6 permanent teeth, excluding the 3rd molar. Genetic and/or environmental factors account for the largest proportion of tooth germ developmental disorders. The condition is characterized as syndromic or non-syndromic depending on whether it is accompanied by systemic developmental disorders. Syndromes accompanying defects of the teeth include ectodermal dysplasia syndrome, cleft lip and palate, Van de Woude syndrome, and Down syndrome. Numerous studies have indicated that patients with severe oligodontia might develop psychosocial prob-
lems related to their appearance. Intellectual disability is a condition in which the development of an individual’s intellect has been delayed or haltered such that the person’s learning and social adaptation abilities are below normal. While the level of intellectual disability is determined by the intelligence quotient (IQ), it does not necessarily coincide with a person’s ability for understanding or communication, and it is up to a dentist to determine whether a person is mentally capable of undergoing dental treatment. Patients with intellectual disability have irregular eating habits and problems with oral hygiene, which frequently cause dental caries, gingivitis, and periodontitis, and occasionally even alveolar bone loss in severe cases. Malocclusion is also observed, resulting from bad oral habits such as teeth grinding, tongue-thrusting, and clenching. While dental disease is not directly related to intellectual disability, congenitally absent teeth, supernumerary teeth, delayed eruption of teeth, and abnormalities of eruption order and location are often observed among patients when accompanied by other syndromes. In addition, morphologic abnormalities such as conical teeth, microdontia, and abnormalities of amelogenesis are often observed.

As patients with intellectual disability cannot suitably cooperate with treatment, physical methods, conscious sedation, or general anesthesia can be considered. General anesthesia is effective in taking care of the patient during a procedure, providing safe environments for them so that they can be treated.

For this case, a patient with severe intellectual disability accompanying oligodontia and conical teeth was treated using direct composite resin restoration under general anesthesia. As it is rare to perform esthetic restoration for patients with severe intellectual disabilities, this paper aims to discuss steps to deciding to perform the procedure, and its treatment results.

II. Case

The patient was an 18-year-old male patient (height 157 cm, weight 41 kg) who was diagnosed with severe intellectual disability at the age of 4 years. He received treatment for caries under general anesthesia at the department of pediatric dentistry of Pusan National University in Sept 2005. His mother subsequently wanted to improve the shape of the patient’s anterior maxillary teeth. Intraoral findings included that a large number of permanent teeth were missing, deciduous teeth were retained and mandibular overclosure with excessive vertical overlap. In addition, teeth presumed to be upper central incisors were conical in shape (Fig. 1). Radiographic examination revealed that the following teeth were missing: mandibular central incisors (31 and 41), maxillary lateral incisors (12 and 22), maxillary left canine (23), maxillary and mandibular second premolars (15, 25, 35 and 45) and maxillary and mandibular second molars (17, 27, 37 and 47). And maxillary right canine (13) was impacted. Furthermore, #53, 55, 63, 65, 75, 85 were prolonged retained (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1. Pre-operative intraoral view demonstrating conical tooth shape.
Although we could not determine whether the patient wanted the treatment, as it was difficult to communicate with him, his guardian showed a strong desire for the treatment. Thus we decided to consider it, and subsequently obtained a diagnostic casts. The cast revealed conical maxillary incisal protrusion and deep overbite, enough to reach into the anterior mandibular region. Considering that the patient had a severe intellectual disability, required general anesthesia, was unable to cooperate for the procedure, and had problems with oral care and financial difficulties, we decided to perform composite resin restoration. The shapes of the teeth were produced using a waxed-up plaster cast, which was shown to the guardian. The guardian was informed of the spacing between the incisors and flaring in the anterior region, as well as the life span of resin restoration and possible discoloration and staining of teeth that may occur. The procedure was determined under the agreement of the guardian.

The patient was hospitalized and the procedure was performed under general anesthesia because of the inability to control his behavior. A blood test, urine test, biochemical test, endocrine function test, electrocardiography, and chest radiograph were conducted to see if the patient could safely undergo a general anesthetic, and all test results were normal. To shorten treatment time and perform a more aesthetic restoration, alginate impressions were taken at the department of pediatric dentistry 2 weeks before the procedure. Thereafter, wax-up was conducted to form a crown in the anterior area and Aquasil Soft Putty® (Dentsply DeTrey GmbH, Konstanz, Germany) was used to make a silicone matrix. The silicone matrix was produced in such a way that it accurately reproduced the palate and incisal edge.

Pumice was used to cleanse the four upper teeth that would be restored under general anesthesia. After the dental cleansing, occlusal evaluation was conducted and the color of the restorative material was determined. The tip of canine was removed a little bit to match them with the crown length of incisors. Diamond bur was used to aspirate the surface of the teeth where adhesive would be applied. We used 37% phosphoric acid to etching the enamel. After washing the acid off and drying the surface, the adhesive was applied and allowed to polymerization. Pre-manufactured silicone matrix was placed on the upper anterior palate, and composite resin was used to form the enamel of the palate and incisal edge. The matrix was removed and allowed to undergo additional polymerization on the palate. An anatomical layering technique was used to restore a dentinal layer. A celluloid strip and matrix were used to form the proximate surface, and enamel resin was used to restore the surface. Occlusion was then evaluated, and further polymerization, finishing and polishing were conducted. Sealant was conducted for the upper first molar teeth on the sides, and scaling and dental cleansing using pumice were performed before finishing the treatment (Fig. 3).
III. Discussion

While patients with severe intellectual disability often suffer from severe dental diseases, in many cases their conditions are left unaddressed owing to treatment inaccessibility, causing significant pain not just to themselves but to their family members as well. It is well known that dental treatment under general anesthesia, in pediatric patients who cannot cooperate with the treatment owing to intellectual disability, significantly improves the quality of life of both the patients and their family members. Limeres et al. noted that among 564 patients with disability, 42% underwent dental treatment under general anesthesia, of which 32% had intellectual disability. Dental treatment under general anesthesia ensures that the procedure is performed under proper lighting and that treatment areas are appropriately isolated. Furthermore, it does not require cooperation from the patient, creating a relaxed environment for both practitioners and the patient, and thereby allowing effective treatment. Thus, as was demonstrated in this case, dental treatment under general anesthesia can be regarded as the best treatment option for patients with severe intellectual disability.

While Salles et al. stated that most patients with severe intellectual disability require a tooth extraction or tooth filling treatment, we should not overlook that they also require esthetic improvement as well as functional restoration of oral health. Shim et al. reported that 45.6% of patients with disability require esthetic dental treatment much like healthy individuals. Thus, we should recognize that even patients with severe disability, who are rarely engaged in social activities, and their family members, have high expectations of esthetic functional restoration.

For esthetic restoration, it is necessary to have a conversation with a patient or family members to reflect their needs. For this reason, a dental cast is made before starting the treatment, to visualize expected treatment results and perform a procedure with the informed consent of the patient or his/her family members. As patients with severe intellectual disability have difficulties in expressing themselves and communicating with others, it is important to communicate with a patient’s family members or a guardian to understand what is needed. As was shown in this case, it is important to show them a wax-up model where tooth-fillings are completed, to discuss and determine proper treatment methods based on sufficient conversation between the surgeon and guardian.

Dental rehabilitation can be achieved by various treatment methods such as direct composite resin restoration, prosthetic treatment using an all-ceramic crown or metal ceramic crowns and orthodontic treatment. Practitioners should determine the proper therapeutic method taking into consideration the length of treatment, cost, and a patient’s ability to take care of his/her oral health. Fortunately, following the development of adhesive tooth-filling materials, direct tooth-filling using composite resin is able...
to preserve tooth structure, whilst being reversible and able to address major complaints with only one treatment\(^{17}\). In addition, compared to the time and costs required, tooth-filling using composite resin can provide patients with a high level of satisfaction\(^{18}\). It should be considered, however, that this treatment method carries the risk of fracture and discoloration of teeth, and lasts for approximately 5 to 10 years.

Using an index matrix, which serves as a guide for anterior resin restoration, is recommended. The silicone-index technique fixes charging areas of composite resin, helping a practitioner to create a proper contour while reducing treatment length\(^{19}\). This technique can be used when filling cracked/injured teeth or performing a plastic operation for a microdontia.

Kim\(^{20}\) et al. reported that excessive resin restoration of embrasure for esthetic purpose might increase the risk of periodontal diseases, and that a practitioner should form the junction of a dental root and crown of a tooth whilst considering balance between the tooth and the gingiva, to prevent periodontal complications. As was demonstrated in the case, completely closing the space might cause periodontal complications when the space to be filled by composite resin is large, and it is thus recommended to partially close the space instead.

Schalk\(^{21}\) et al. reported that when patients with partial oligodontia without any syndrome were compared to healthy people, the patients showed symptoms such as plica mentalis, increased interocclusal distance and an abnormal relationship between the upper and lower jaws. They also had drier skin as compared with healthy individuals. Therefore, when teeth which are rarely missing are noted to be absent, or when a large number of teeth are missing, it should be carefully observed whether a patient has an ectodermal hypoplasia. For the patient in this case, even though the guardian reported no syndrome, it is believed that genetic testing and dermatological tests should be conducted to ascertain whether he is suffering from a form of ectodermal hypoplasia, as the loss of many teeth, morphologic abnormality of teeth and presence of conical teeth were detected.

\section*{Summary}

Our patient with severe intellectual disability accompanied by oligodontia and conical teeth had his anterior teeth restored with composite resin to improve his appearance under general anesthesia. Direct composite resin restoration is a simple, reversible, and economical treatment method that requires a small number of hospital visits and has a short procedure time. A clinical protocol using a diagnostic wax-up and silicone matrix as a means of assistance helps achieve esthetic and functional treatment goals.

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