МЕДИЦИНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
ПЛОВДИВ
Вх. № Р-2705 / 20.03.2024 г.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY APPOINTED BY ORDER NO P-543/14.02.2024 OF THE RECTOR OF MU-PLOVDIV IN THE PROCESS FOR AWARDING THE EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC DEGREE 'PhD' IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PROSTHETIC DENTAL MEDICINE, FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE, MU-PLOVDIV

STATEMENT

By Assoc. Prof. Stefan Chavdarov Zlatev, DMD, PhD,

MU - Plovdiv, bul. "Hristo Botev 3, Plovdiv, 4000

Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "PhD".

Field of higher education - 7 "Health and Sport"

Professional field - 7.2 "Dental Medicine"

Doctoral program - "Prosthetic Dentistry".

Author – Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan

Dissertation Topic: "POSTERIOR PALATAL SEAL AREA – LABORATORY AND CLINICAL STUDIES"

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr Qvor Kalatchev, PhD, Department of Prosthetic Dental Medicine, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University Plovdiv.

General presentation of the procedure and the PhD student:

The submitted set of materials is in accordance with the Law on Academic Development in Bulgaria, the regulations for its application, and the regulations of MU-Plovdiv for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "PhD".

The dissertation of Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan submitted for opinion consists of 210 pages (153 pages main part, 16 pages of references used, 37 pages of appendices,

four pages of introduction - title page, table of contents, list of abbreviations used. It is illustrated with 79 tables, 155 diagrams and 90 figures. The bibliographical reference includes 218 references, 36 in Cyrillic and 182 in Latin. The main body of the dissertation is structured as follows:

- Introduction, literature review and findings from the literature review - 56 pages

- Aim and objectives, materials and methods, results and discussion - 90 pages

- Conclusions, implications and contributions - 6 pages

The PhD student presents three publications and three conference papers/lectures related to the thesis.

The main part of the thesis is structured as follows:
- Introduction, literature review and conclusion of the review - 52 pages.

- Aim and objectives, material and methods, results and discussion - 92 pages.

- Conclusion, implications and contributions - 3 pages

Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan was born in Plovdiv on 21.10.1968. In 1986, he finished his secondary education at the ESPU – "PK Qvorov". In 1993, he graduated from the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Medical University - Plovdiv. In 1993, he started working as a general dentist at the dental clinic of Bratanitsa, Vasil Levski and Brestovitsa. In 1994, after a competitive examination, he was appointed assistant professor at the Department of Prosthetic Dentistry, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University - Plovdiv. In 1998, he obtained a speciality in prosthetic dentistry, and in 2005, he obtained a speciality in general dentistry. He is a member of the BgDA.

Topic Relevance:

The topic presented by Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan is of marked relevance. The ageing population trend correlates directly with the number of completely edentulous patients. The treatment method Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan studied is classical yet current due to the high epidemiology of edentulism. The nature of the thesis has a strong clinical orientation, which highlights the practicality of the dissertation.

Knowledge of the problem:

The literature review and its conclusions, presented in a 55-page volume, discuss the terminology and anatomical basis for palatal seal design in detail. The concepts of oscillating lines and the importance of the foveae palatinae, soft palate slope, and hard palate arch to create a palatine seal are thoroughly analysed. The guidelines, techniques and related materials(PIP) for palatine seal construction in upper full dentures are comprehensively studied. Problems related to materials and associated techniques for the fabrication of complete dentures are extensively discussed.

The literature sources analysed directly relate to the topic under development, giving reason to believe that the doctoral student has an extremely thorough knowledge of the problem. Notably, the large number of literature sources is sufficient for the analysis and establishment of a theoretical basis for the studied topic.

Aim and objectives

This dissertation aims to study the features of the palatal valve zone in patients with an upper full denture, to create

and approbate a method for the study of the anatomical features of the maxilla and propose a protocol for constructing a palatal seal. Thus, the goal set by Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan corresponds to the chosen development topic.

In fulfilment of the objective, Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan set four tasks, the fulfilment of which fully resolve the problems delineated by the objective of the development thus described.

In the first objective, the doctoral student surveys dentists from different areas of the country to investigate their knowledge related to the fabrication of the palatal seal and other issues directly related to the fabrication of maxillary full dentures. As a result of the survey, there was insufficient knowledge about the palatal seal area, the most suitable materials, tools and techniques for creating a palatal seal in the maxillary full denture.

In a second objective, the PhD student conducted a clinical survey among 228 patients to establish the anamnestic and anatomical prerequisites for fabricating a palatal seal zone and assessed the quality of the palatal border of the fabricated full dentures. As a result of the study, favourable conditions for optimal palatal seal fabrication were found in a significant percentage of the cases studied. The evaluation results of the available prosthetic designs correspond with the data obtained from the survey - properly made maxillary complete denture borders in the palatal zone are extremely rare.

In a third objective, an original methodology for measuring the slope of the soft palate was created, approbated and used. The PhD student establishes and objectively proves no correlation between the anatomical prerequisites (soft palate slope) and the quality of the investigated prosthetic designs. The effectiveness and reliability of the proposed

system for determining the angle between the hard and soft palate is established.

In the fourth objective, the PhD student created and approbated a modified clinical protocol for palatal seal shaping using the conventional methodology described by Winkler as a control. The results obtained with the dissertator's proposed modified methodology were significantly better.

In all the objectives, the materials and methods used for the various studies are described comprehensively and in detail, allowing for the studies' reproducibility. The statistical methods for analysing the obtained large volume of data were properly selected, and the analysis of the results from the various tests adequately addressed the objectives. The results are comprehensively described and well illustrated by tables, figures and diagrams. The discussion of the results is specific but comprehensive.

The conclusions, implications and contributions are excellently structured and reflect the essence of the results, emphasising originality in the work.

Abstract

The content and quality of the abstract comply with the accepted requirements. The abstract summarises the main results achieved in the thesis.

The three publications and three conference papers/lectures related to the dissertation are connected to the thesis topic.

Recommendations:

There is no section for recommendations in the submitted thesis. The PhD student should distribute the results and

share the experience gained from the research at congresses and forums as a monograph/clinical manual on the performance of the guided bone regeneration procedure and management of complications.

Conclusion

The dissertation contains scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law and the Medical University - Plovdiv Regulations. The submitted materials and dissertation results comply with the specific requirements adopted in connection with the Regulations of MU-Plovdiv for the application of the LDASRB.

The dissertation shows that the PhD student Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific speciality of Prosthetic Dental Medicine, demonstrating the qualities and skills to conduct scientific research independently.

Due to the above, I give my positive evaluation of the research presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to Dr. Onnik Garo Chaprashikyan in the Doctoral Program in Prosthetic Dental Medicine.

Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б."В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

15.03.2024
Plovdiv

Reviewer .....
Associate professor, Stefan Chavdarov Zlatev, DMD PhD