INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND DENTAL HEALTH

Volume02 Issue05, May-2016, pg. 01-04

**Published Date: -** 03-05-2016

**E-ISSN: 2454-4191**
**P-ISSN: 2455-0779**

# PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION WITH CLOSED HOLLOW BULB OBTURATOR: A CASE REPORT OF PARTIAL MAXILLECTOMY PATIENT

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**Abstract: Partial maxillectomy, resulting from surgical resection of a maxillary tumor or other pathologies, can significantly impact the patient's quality of life due to impaired speech, mastication, and esthetics. Prosthetic rehabilitation using a closed hollow bulb obturator has proven to be an effective solution for restoring oral functions and improving esthetics in such cases. This case report presents the successful prosthetic rehabilitation of a patient with partial maxillectomy using a closed hollow bulb obturator. The report details the treatment planning, fabrication process, and post-insertion adjustments, leading to improved oral functions and enhanced patient satisfaction. The case report highlights the benefits and challenges of using a closed hollow bulb obturator for maxillary defects and underscores its valuable role in achieving functional and esthetic restoration in partial maxillectomy patients.**

**Keywords: Partial maxillectomy, obturator, prosthetic rehabilitation, closed hollow bulb obturator, oral functions, esthetics, maxillary defects, treatment planning, case report, speech, mastication.**

## INTRODUCTION

Partial maxillectomy, a surgical procedure involving the partial removal of the maxilla due to tumors, trauma, or other pathologies, can lead to significant functional and esthetic challenges for the patient. The loss of maxillary structures can result in impaired speech, difficulty in mastication, and altered facial esthetics, affecting the patient's overall quality of life. Prosthetic rehabilitation plays a crucial role in restoring oral functions and improving esthetics in such cases. Among the various prosthetic options, the closed hollow bulb obturator has emerged as a viable and effective solution for maxillary defects.

The closed hollow bulb obturator is a removable prosthesis that covers the maxillary defect and restores continuity to the oral cavity. This obturator design provides support, retention, and stability while minimizing the risk of food impaction and promoting speech and mastication functions. The obturator's closed hollow design enhances patient comfort and reduces the weight of the prosthesis, making it a practical choice for patients with partial maxillectomy.

Volume02 Issue05, May-2016, pg. 01-04

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This case report aims to present a successful prosthetic rehabilitation of a patient with partial maxillectomy using a closed hollow bulb obturator. The report outlines the treatment planning, fabrication process, and post-insertion adjustments, providing insights into the clinical management and challenges faced during the prosthetic rehabilitation. By sharing this case report, we seek to emphasize the benefits and efficacy of the closed hollow bulb obturator in achieving functional and esthetic restoration for partial maxillectomy patients.

## METHOD

Patient Evaluation:

A patient with a partial maxillectomy resulting from tumor resection was referred to the prosthodontics department for prosthetic rehabilitation. A comprehensive evaluation of the patient's oral and maxillofacial structures, including the extent of the maxillary defect, was conducted.

Treatment Planning:

The treatment plan involved the fabrication of a closed hollow bulb obturator to restore the maxillary defect. The treatment plan was discussed with the patient, and informed consent was obtained.

Impression and Model Fabrication:

Preliminary impressions of the maxillary arch and defect were obtained using appropriate impression materials. The definitive cast was fabricated from the impressions to accurately replicate the maxillary anatomy.

Design and Fabrication of Closed Hollow Bulb Obturator:

The closed hollow bulb obturator was designed based on the maxillary cast and defect. The prosthesis was fabricated using heat-cured acrylic resin to ensure optimal fit and retention.

Prosthesis Insertion and Adjustment:

The closed hollow bulb obturator was inserted, and post-insertion adjustments were made to ensure proper occlusion, retention, and comfort for the patient. Speech and mastication functions were evaluated to assess the obturator's effectiveness.

Follow-up and Patient Satisfaction:

The patient was followed up at regular intervals to monitor the prosthesis's performance and address any concerns or adjustments needed. The patient's satisfaction with the functional and esthetic outcomes of the obturator was assessed.

Volume02 Issue05, May-2016, pg. 01-04

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The successful prosthetic rehabilitation using the closed hollow bulb obturator provided the patient with improved oral functions, enhanced esthetics, and increased overall quality of life. The case report highlights the valuable role of the closed hollow bulb obturator in achieving functional and esthetic restoration for patients with partial maxillectomy, underscoring its importance as an effective prosthetic option in such cases.

## RESULTS

The case report presents the successful prosthetic rehabilitation of a patient with partial maxillectomy using a closed hollow bulb obturator. The patient, who underwent surgical resection of a maxillary tumor, experienced impaired speech and mastication along with noticeable facial asymmetry and compromised esthetics due to the maxillary defect.

Prosthetic Rehabilitation:

The closed hollow bulb obturator was fabricated and designed to restore the maxillary defect. The obturator provided support, retention, and stability, effectively covering the defect and restoring continuity to the oral cavity. Post-insertion adjustments were made to achieve proper occlusion, retention, and patient comfort.

Functional and Esthetic Outcomes:

The patient experienced significant improvement in speech and mastication functions after the obturator insertion. The obturator's closed hollow design minimized food impaction and facilitated the patient's ability to chew and articulate speech effectively. Additionally, the obturator's esthetic restoration led to a more symmetrical facial appearance, significantly improving the patient's self-esteem and overall quality of life.

## DISCUSSION

The successful prosthetic rehabilitation with the closed hollow bulb obturator highlights its effectiveness as a suitable option for restoring oral functions and improving esthetics in patients with partial maxillectomy. The obturator's design provided adequate support and stability, allowing the patient to regain functional capabilities and achieve better oral health.

The closed hollow bulb design not only reduced the prosthesis's weight but also prevented the accumulation of food debris, contributing to enhanced patient comfort and better hygiene. The obturator's retention properties ensured stable and reliable fit, enabling the patient to carry out daily activities without discomfort or difficulty.

The obturator's role in restoring facial esthetics is equally crucial, as facial asymmetry resulting from maxillary defects can significantly impact a patient's self-confidence and psychosocial well-being. The

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closed hollow bulb obturator successfully improved facial symmetry, positively impacting the patient's self-perception and overall satisfaction.

## CONCLUSION

This case report demonstrates the successful prosthetic rehabilitation of a patient with partial maxillectomy using a closed hollow bulb obturator. The obturator effectively restored oral functions, improved facial esthetics, and significantly enhanced the patient's overall quality of life.

The closed hollow bulb obturator proves to be a valuable adjunct for maxillary defect rehabilitation, offering support, stability, and retention while promoting enhanced speech and mastication functions. Its lightweight design and hygienic benefits contribute to patient comfort and ease of maintenance.

The successful outcome of this case report underscores the importance of prosthetic rehabilitation in patients with partial maxillectomy. Dental professionals should consider the closed hollow bulb obturator as a reliable and effective option to achieve functional and esthetic restoration, ultimately improving the patient's oral health and overall well-being. Further research and case studies may contribute to expanding the knowledge and potential applications of the closed hollow bulb obturator in prosthetic rehabilitation for maxillary defects.

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