

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION USING MAXILLARY OBTURATORS WITH ORAL CANCER PATIENTS.**

K. Juszczyzyn, dr hab. n. med. D. Rolski, prof. dr hab. n. med. Elżbieta Mierzwińska-Nastalska

Department of Prosthodontics, ul. Nowogrodzka 59, paw. XIA, 02-006 Warsaw, Poland

Medical University of Warsaw, ul. Żwirki i Wigury 61, 02-091 Warsaw, Poland

### Introduction:

Partial or total maxillectomy is the basic surgical procedure used for the treatment of malignant tumors within the mid face. The connection between oral and nasal cavities is the most common complication disturbing mastication, deglutition, speech and breathing. The purpose of rehabilitation in such cases is to separate digestive and nasal tracts. The use of prosthetic restorations equipped with an obturator is often the only possible therapeutic option despite the development of surgical reconstruction methods, even including free composite flaps.

### Aim of the study:

The aim of the study is to present problems and benefits of the use of prosthetic restorations with obturators.

### Material and method:

A group of 30 post-maxillectomy patients treated with removable prosthetic restorations - equipped with various types and sizes of obturators - were selected for the study. The required period of use of the definitive obturator was half a year. A questionnaire survey was performed, using a modified OFS scale according to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The questionnaire was expanded by three questions based on Nose Obstruction Symptom Evaluation (NOSE) scale.

### Results:

The properly functioning maxillary obturator is often the most important factor improving the quality of life with patients after upper jaw resection. Restoring the ability to grind and swallow food, and improving speech articulation are the main positive aspects of prosthetic rehabilitation mentioned by patients. Patients receiving adjuvant therapy report more problems associated with prosthetic rehabilitation.