

## Learning Denture Maintenance and Insurance Claims through Relining

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The proper maintenance of dentures is a crucial aspect of dental treatment, as important as the fabrication of new dentures. In particular, relining is an essential process that addresses the changes in the residual alveolar ridge, which provides support to the denture, replacing natural teeth. This procedure helps to resolve various issues that may arise due to these changes, ensuring the patient can use a stable denture. Understanding the anatomy of the edentulous arch is a fundamental consideration in denture-related treatments and can significantly aid dental professionals in enhancing their skills in relining procedures.

The first step in performing relining, the pre-treatment stage, is identical to the process carried out before impression taking during regular denture fabrication. Most patients who require relining present with issues such as deformation or inflammation of the denture-supporting tissues, with the severity varying from mild to moderate. A solid understanding of the anatomical changes that occur in the edentulous arch, including the resorption of the residual alveolar bone after tooth extraction and the common soft tissue lesions, is essential in the pre-treatment phase of relining. This knowledge is crucial for effective complete denture therapy.

Relining techniques are classified into two methods: indirect and direct relining. Indirect relining involves capturing the shape of the edentulous ridge in the clinic and then filling the inner surface of the denture with resin in the dental laboratory. On the other hand, direct relining is performed directly in the clinic, requiring a high level of proficiency in intraoral application. For accurate relining, it is vital to understand the overall process, materials used, and techniques involved in both methods.

The examination and troubleshooting of dentures, including the process of relining, are key to the success of denture therapy. In the National Health Insurance system, coverage is provided not only for denture fabrication but also for maintenance procedures, including relining. This lecture aims to help dental professionals understand the current health insurance coverage for denture maintenance, including relining, and how to effectively apply this knowledge in clinical practice.

### Profile

- \* Graduated from the School of Dentistry, Pusan National University
- \* Completed internship and residency at Pusan National University Dental Hospital
- \* Ph.D. in Prosthodontics, Pusan National University
- \* Board-certified Specialist in Prosthodontics
- \* Present, Director of Planning, Korean Public Dental Association
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