THE BASIC RULES OF OCCLUSION
A DIDACTIC/CLINICAL PROGRAM
DR. MICHAEL J. RACICH

When you hear the word occlusion, what do you think about? Teeth coming together, TMD (temporomandibular disorders), a philosophy(s), or are you just plain confused? Unfortunately, many of our colleagues are unclear as to what occlusion means to them or more importantly, what it means for their patients. What might appear at first to be a complex topic, especially with the abundance of apparently conflicting theories and treatments, once simplified to the essential elements, is in reality, fairly straightforward. The essential elements I like to call ‘The Basic Rules of’ and this program is dedicated to the outlining of these elements.

The Basic Rules of Occlusion outlines an evidenced-based practical approach to the understanding and implementation of occlusal therapy in everyday practice. Whether a dental generalist, dental specialist (prosthodontist, orthodontist, periodontist, endodontist, oral surgeon, orofacial pain practitioner), dentist or dental technician, The Basic Rules of Occlusion sooner or later will apply clinically as dental practitioners facilitate stomatognathic stability. An understanding of these Basic Rules will enhance all aspects of dental practitioner practice for the benefit of all the stakeholders. By the end of the program, basic occlusal therapy will become a routine part of the participant’s treatment genre, providing patients with an incredible service that is cost effective, efficacious, and exciting to do.

Participants will attend the lecture on Friday, November 20 and lecture/clinical demonstrations on Saturday, November 21.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES, LEARN ABOUT;
• Evidence-based not evidence-biased dentistry: what it is and is not
• Occlusion: when, what, how?
• Occlusion for everyday dentistry, fixed and removable prosthodontics, for orthodontics
• Occlusion and implant therapy
• Occlusion and TMD: is there a link?
• CR: where, when, who’s?
• Myocentric as a treatment position
• Vertical dimension assessment

• Occlusion and practical dental anatomy
• Occlusion and facially generated treatment planning
• Smile design and occlusal stabilization
• Envelope of function evaluation and maintenance
• Articulator/Imaging use: when, what, how?
• Orthotics: predictable usage
• Occlusal equilibration: protocols and end points
• Restorative and prosthodontic material selection

MICHAEL J. RACICH, DMD, a graduate from University of British Columbia, has a general dental practice emphasizing comprehensive restorative dentistry, prosthodontics and TMD/orofacial pain. Dr. Racich is a member of many professional organizations and has lectured nationally and internationally on subjects relating to patient comfort, function and appearance. He is a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and the American College of Dentists as well as a Diplomate of the American Board of Orofacial Pain and the International Congress of Oral Implantologists. Dr. Racich has published in peer-reviewed scientific journals such as the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry and the International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry and has authored the books: The Basic Rules of Oral Rehabilitation (2010), The Basic Rules of Occlusion (2012), The Basic Rules of Facially Generated Treatment Planning (2013), and The Basic Rules of Being a Dental Patient (2016). Currently he mentors the didactic/clinical FOCUS Dental Education Continuum (study clubs, proprietary programs, coaching, 2nd opinions only).

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