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 straight forward. 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), denturist 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.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES
1. Evidence-based not evidence-biased dentistry: what it is and is not
2. Occlusion: when, what, how
3. Occlusion for everyday dentistry
4. Occlusion for major restorative dentistry
5. Occlusion and implant therapy
6. Occlusion for fixed and removable prosthodontics
7. Occlusion for orthodontics
8. Occlusion and TMD: is there a link?
9. CR: where, when, who’s?
10. Myocentric as a treatment position
11. Vertical dimension assessment
12. Occlusion and practical dental anatomy
13. Occlusion and facially generated treatment planning
14. Smile design and occlusal stabilization
15. Envelope of function evaluation and maintenance
16. Articulator/imaging use: when, what, how
17. Orthotics: predictable usage
18. Restorative and prosthodontic material selection

CLINICIAN
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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