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Dear Dr. Joe Massad:

I write this in response to the usage and evaluation of the new Massad jaw recorder.

My primary practice is treating prosthodontic patients since 1986. It is always a chore to record centric jaw position on these prosthodontic patients.

The centric relation (CR) or centric jaw position concept has undergone constant debate and revision more than any other in the field of dentistry. "Most authors agree that the CR record is the most important and the most difficult maxillo-mandibular relation record to make."<sup>1</sup> For this reason, many methods in the dental literature for recording centric relation records have been suggested. The categories of CR recording are as follows: 1. Direct interocclusal records. 2. Intraoral and extraoral graphic recordings. 3. Functional recordings. 4. Cephalometrics.<sup>2</sup>

Schweitzer stated that most experienced dentists may not be able to give a precise definition of this controversial position, but for the average patient that they treat, they are able to record it.<sup>3</sup> This is because of many various factors which influence the recording of CR including: pain in TMJ or masticatory system, protective reflexes caused by faulty occlusal contacts, emotional stress, recording media, guidance or manipulation by the clinician, and neuromuscular conditioning.<sup>2</sup>

I have tried several of the different recording devices currently being offered. During my private practice and teaching dental students and dentists found out that Dr. Massad Tracers are so easy to use and always predictable to find the centric jaw position. As I wrote in 2009: "You do not need to be an F.B.I. agent to find and register the retruded contact position in the treatment of the prosthodontic patient."<sup>4</sup>

Dr Massad's intra oral tracers offer several advantages and differences from the others with which I have had experience.

- 1) They are adaptable to multiple clinical situations such as fully dentate, partially or completely edentulous patients
- 2) They are disposable and they prevent cross-contamination between patients and dental lab technicians. All others recorders are not disposable and are expensive.
- 3) They can be easily adjusted to adapt to any patient arch form. They come in different sizes. This makes them very practical within the reach of all dentists. They are made with a hardened plastic contrary to the old ones made in metal that can be easily trimmed and shaped for optimal customization. The previous metal devices could not be trimmed or shaped.
- 4) They have a special feature is the ball and socket pin. The pin can be adjusted by hand to be perpendicular to the opposing striker plate. Some earlier devices allowed for pin modification, but you have to use a wrench or a driver for its adjustment.
- 5) They can be easily mounted in the dentist's or in the lab technician's office.

References:

1. Holden JE: Centric Relation treatment position concepts and related research. ACP publication
2. Myers ML: Central relation records. Historical review. J Prosthet Dent 1982; 47:141-5.
3. Schweitzer JM. Dental occlusion: a pragmatic approach. Dent Clin North Am 1969;13:687-724
4. Daher T, Massad JJ: You do not need to be an F.B.I. agent to find and register the retruded contact position in the treatment of the prosthodontic patient. JLDA V46 N1; 2009.