A Simplified Method of Centric Relation Record
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Abstract
The definition of CR has evolved over the years into the most controversial subjects than any other dental concept in dentistry. This ranges from a retruded posterior position, to superior position and then to an anterior superior position. Recording the centric relation is the most crucial step for obtaining a prosthesis with an occlusion entirely in harmony with the stomatognathic system. We used an direct interocclusal record in which is the oldest type of Centric Relation record. This physiologic method needs normal functioning of the patient’s proprioception and the tactile sense in order to make an accurate record. In our technique, interocclusal wax was used to record maximum incursion (MI) followed by recording centric relation (CR) to obtain a reproducible mandibular position in a dentulous subject.


Keywords: Centric Relation, Maximum Intercuspatation, Record, Wax, Chin Point Guidance

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Citation: Saafi Jilani et al. (2018), A Simplified Method of Centric Relation Record. Int J Dent & Oral Heal. 4:6, 77-83

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Received: May 14, 2018
Accepted: May 22, 2018
Published: June 08, 2018

Materials and Methods:
There are five techniques of CR registration:

Roth power centric bite:
This technique uses two steps: In the first step and after placing the heated wax (Bite Registration Sheet Wax, Almore Int. Inc., Portland, Oregon) in the subject’s mouth, the subject was instructed to put their tongue to the roof of their mouth and relax their lower jaw while the operator, holding the mandibular symphysis, guided the lower incisors into the wax. Next, the subject was instructed to close their posterior teeth into the wax. When the cusp tips of the lower posterior teeth had impressed the wax, the subject was instructed to stop. In the next step, after removal from the subject’s mouth, the anterior portion of the wax wafer was hardened in an ice water bath followed by flame heating the posterior portions of the wax wafer. The wax was returned to the mouth and the subject instructed to “bite and hold” into the hard anterior stop, allowing the posterior teeth to embed in the soft posterior wax. The posterior wax was cooled with air from an air/water syringe and removed. After it had cooled, the bite was checked intra- orally for accuracy.

Introduction:
Centric relation (CR) has been considered a maxillomandibular position of choice for some dental and prosthetic procedures. Although regarded as a fully reproducible relation, there is a great controversy about its clinical use and recording technique. H.T. Shillingburg in 2012 defined Centric relation ‘centric relation, is an anteriorly, superiorly braced position along the articular eminence of the glenoid fossa, with the articular disc interposed between the condyle and eminence.’

Centric relation: the maxillomandibular relationship in which is the oldest type of Centric Relation record. This physiologic method needs normal functioning of the patient’s proprioception and the tactile sense in order to make an accurate record.

In our technique, interocclusal wax was used to record maximum incursion (MI) followed by recording centric relation (CR) to obtain a reproducible mandibular position in a dentulous subject.
Tongue tip to soft palate:
The subject was instructed to touch their tongue as posteriorly as possible to their soft palate while slowly closing into a registration material to obtain an interocclusal record using the Tongue Tip to Soft Palate Technique.

Chin point guidance:
In this technique, the operator grasped the chin and guided the subject’s mandible into the registration material which was allowed to set before removing it from the subject’s mouth.

Bimanual manipulation:
The Bimanual Manipulation Technique was performed by placing both of the operator’s hands under the subject’s mandible. Slight superior pressure was applied at the gonial angle and inferior pressure at the mandibular symphysis, guiding the mandible into registration material. This registration material was allowed to harden and removed from the subject’s mouth.

Leaf gauge:
To obtain an interocclusal record using the Leaf Gauge Technique, a sufficient number of soft plastic leaves gauge was placed between the subject’s maxillary and mandibular incisors to provide sufficient vertical dimension to just disocclude the posterior teeth. The subject is sitting upright for 5 minutes in this situation. The subject was then placed in a supine position, the registration material was applied to the occlusal surfaces of the mandibular teeth after removing the leaf gauge without allowing any occlusal contact. The leaf gauge was then replaced, as an anterior stop, and the subject instructed to close into the registration material in the previous position. The registration material was allowed to set and then removed from the patient’s mouth.

In our study the method used for recording CR is a technical report: The record of centric relation is always preceded by mountain of the maxillary cast on articulator. In this clinic case we used a semi adjustable non arcon, the Quick “Lab” (Mounting Stone, Whip Mix, Louisville, Kentucky) (Figure 1) which was adjusted with condylar inclination set at 20° to 40° (mean 30°) and Bennett angle at 15°.

In our method, the patient must be trained and guided to the movements of opening and closing inorder to permit muscle relaxation. (Figure 2)

Materials and methods:
Heat-retaining wax sheet (i.e., Moyco wax; Moyco industries; Philadelphia; USA) Record wax (i.e., Alu wax; Alu wax dental product co Grand rapids, Michigan; USA) Ice water

Figure 1: Semi adjustable non arcon with maxillary cast

Figure 2: Training of the patient by opening and closing movements
- Soften uniformly a strip of wax (Moyco wax) in warm water \(T = 52^\circ\) (figure 3) then, adapt by pressing slightly on the maxillary cusp tips of maxillary cast (Figure 3).

![Figure 3: strip of wax (Moyco wax) Soften in warm water](image)

Cut, using scissors, wax still softened to the dimensions of the maxillary on buccal cusps and incisor edges (figure 4 & 5):

![Figure (4 & 5): Wax (Moyco) is adapted on the maxillary cusp tips and cutted](image)

Reduce the thickness of the wax by using a scalpel until a thickness of 2 mm. This reduction should save sectors of wax related to the prepared antagonist or beyond teeth (presence of already occlusal clearance of prepared teeth) because more thickness is needed (Figure 6).

![Figure 6: reduction of the thickness of the record wax](image)

Adapt the recording wax or "check bite" (strip of moyco wax) to the maxillary jaw and guide the patient's mouth voluntarily into maximum intercuspation (MI) and make cuspal indentations of the mandibular teeth tips (2 anterior and 2 posterior) (Figure 7).
riline the indentations tips with droplets of 2mm diameter of a recording wax (i.e., Aluwax used in our method) (Figure 8) or with a temporary sealing quick setting cement (i.e., Temp Bond) and manipulate the mandible to guide the patient’s mouth into CR. This approach is based on the fact that usually there is in most patients a sagittal shift between MI and the CR (means 0.5 mm). Thus, when the patient is guided in CR, some indentations of mandibular incisor edges and molar cusp tips will be logically engraved in the wax (i.e., Aluwax) or in temporary sealing cement.

Maintains his left cheek with the left index finger guide with the right hand the mandible with thumb folded in front of his chin, and index folded underneath guide the patient, in centric relation, and ask him to gently shallow indentations in record wax by two or three movements of closing (Figure 9). The resulting relaxation allows the practitioner, in one swift motion opening and then closing, to exceed the possible neuromuscular reflexes and to indent the wax more deeply. Repeat several times this operation to ensure reproducibility and take care that the record should be dried before any adding of new wax.

Figure 7: strip Wax record with the mandibular teeth tips indentations after guiding the patient into MI (see arrows).

Figure 8: Relining of the indentations with the wax (i.e., Aluwax) - Seat the patient in the orthostatic position.

Figure 9: (chin point guidance) or unimanual mandibular method to guide the patient into CR.
After wax chilling in ice water, until the indentations become hard, recheck the perfect adaptation among the indentations engraved in Aluwax wax and the cusps tips of the corresponding teeth (Figure 10)

Figure 10: Verification of the adaptation of the indentations of Aluwax wax with the indentation cusps tips of the corresponding teeth

Mounting the mandibular cast:
Adjust the incisil guide pin to 2mm (which corresponds to the thickness of the wax record). Then place the mandibular cast oriented on the CR record and check the correspondence of mounting patterns on articulator with the clinical situation. Apply mounting stone to the mandibular cast and the mounting plate (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Mounting the mandibular cast

Evaluation:
We use a method described by Rosentiel, Land and Fujimoto to assess the accuracy of this method of CR record and to compare the tooth contacts on the casts with those in the mouth. During the clinical examination, the position of tooth contacts in CR can be marked with thin articulating film. Normally, the markings are on the mesial inclines of maxillary cusps and the distal inclines of mandibular cusps. Their exact location can be transferred by having the patient close through thin occlusal indicator wax. The articulated casts are closed, and the retruded tooth contacts marked with articulating film. When the indicator wax is transferred to the casts, the perforations should correspond exactly to these marks.

Discussion:
The definition of CR has been changing repeatedly and till date there does not seem to have any consensus about it. The old definitions of CR had taken account only of the position of the head of the condyle in the glenoid fossa. The head of the condyle, articular disk, glenoid fossa, slopes (shapes) of articular eminence of temporal bone... etc are clinically invisible parts because no one <<has seen >> one day these articular structures when recording CR but we can only see and manipulate the mandible. Thus, there was most confusing controversial part of this position and that why CR definition has changed over the past century from being a posterior superior position of the condyle in relation to the glenoid fossa to an anterior superior position.

Regarding the methods of mandibular manipulation and according to H.T Shillingburg the most consistent, repeatable results can be accomplished using the technique of <<bimanual manipulation>> described by Dawson. McCollum and Granger stated that Centric Relation is that position where the mandible rotates around the hinge axis. In securing maxillo-mandibular records, both investigators recommended the use of chin point guidance recommended by Gutchet in 1970 in retruding the mandible. Others who advocated this technique include Kornfeld, Thompson, Aull and Sloan. The Bimanual Manipulation
Technique was touted as highly repeatable, but also the most technique sensitive. The Roth Power Bite Technique was found to be repeatable, but was criticized as not physiologic.

Other techniques of recording CR such as Chin Point Guidance, Swallowing, and Tongue Tip to Soft Palate have produced more variable results. A study conducted by Adam L. Swenson and Al. to determine Condylar positions generated by five centric relation recording techniques concluded that The Roth Power Bite and Leaf Gauge Techniques positioned condyles slightly more anterior and superior than the other techniques. In another study conducted by Nikolina Holen Galekovic, bimanual manipulation, chin point guidance and Roth's method are clinical CR registration techniques of equal accuracy and reproducibility in asymptomatic subjects with normal occlusal relationship.

Nevertheless, since many years, in our faculty of dental medicine we used an unimanual method (chin point guidance) described by Lauritzen because it is a very fast technique and enables to avoid the neuromuscular reflexes during centric relation recording with suitable accuracy. On another hand, this method, compared to the bimanual one, when learned to students in our faculty of dentistry, it has been easily understood and practiced.

More than 20 years of clinical practice I use this method of mandibular manipulation with safety and accuracy, which allow to give us a clinical sensation of a perception and repetitive retruded mandibular position followed by mandibular rotation so a condyle rotation. The rotational movement is limited to about 12mm of incisor separation before the temporomandibular ligaments and structure anterior to the mastoid process force the mandible so the condyle to translate by contraction of the lateral pterygoide muscle which moves the condyle-disk coapted forward along the posterior incline of the tubercule. One of the biggest misunderstandings seen, is the tendency for dentists to think CR is achieved by forcing the jaw back to seat the condyles. Moreover, the CR should be related to a vertical dimension. That's why in complete removable denture prosthesis the CR is recorded to an unknown position. Therefore, the patient-passive technique which require the dentist's assistance.

Conclusion: Currently, a consensual definition of CR described in the literature refers to a reproducible physiological position that is independent of occlusal contacts.

CR is used in dentistry as repeatable reference position for mounting casts on an articulator for performing occlusal analysis, in complete removable denture, and in many clinical cases in partial denture prosthesis and in fixed denture prostheses. Our method, comparable to other techniques is more likely to be easy and uses fewer materials. Simple in appearance, it needs more accuracy and relatively reduced chairside time.

References: