

Virtual articulator—an introduction to virtual technologies in prosthetic and restorative dentistry**Ankur Pandey**

College of Dental Sciences, India

Virtual reality helps us to visualize and experience a world of three dimensions in real time and with six degree freedom. Virtual articulator is also known as software articulator, as based on virtual technology it will help to provide better training and education by examining complex contexts. As mechanical articulator have drawbacks, major one being the limitation in mandibular movements and semi adjustable type, so virtual ones may replace them in near future. In the field of prosthetic and restorative dentistry, the virtual articulator showcases the virtual applications to clinical dental practitioners for analysing the static and

dynamic occlusal relations. It represents 3D view of jaws and patient specific data on jaw movements. It requires mainly three unit devices (3D scanner as input device, 3D VA software for modelling and rapid prototyping system as output device). It works in combination with CAD/CAM technology for serious prosthesis and implants. So virtual technology has opened options for dental professionals for doing successful diagnosis and treatment planning for patients with virtual articulator in today's clinical dental practice.

e: ankur26.pandey@gmail.com