INTRODUCTION

The importance of the neutral zone in complete denture fabrication is the balance of muscular forces that this area possesses, which helps the clinician to place the teeth in an area where minimal destabilizing forces will act on the denture. It is also referred to as the dead space or zone of minimal conflict.\cite{1,2} The technique is extremely useful in patients with severe atrophic ridge, advanced age, those who suffer from neuromuscular disorders such as parkinsonism, and even those who have undergone surgical resections as part of cancer removal.\cite{3,4} Since the technique is old and reliable, the mere advancement that has taken place is the use of different dental materials for recording the technique. These materials over the years have ranged from modeling compound, a mixture of high-fusing and low-fusing impression compounds, various wax formulations, and tissue conditioners. We present a technique of recording the neutral zone with a soft liner that is primarily meant to be used under the denture for preserving residual alveolar ridges.

TECHNIQUE

- Step 1: After recording the jaw relation for complete denture prosthesis, both maxillary and mandibular denture bases are mounted on an articulator. The mandibular occlusal rims are stripped of modeling wax, and a zigzag 19-gauge stainless steel orthodontic wire is adapted over the ridge area of the entire denture base at least from molar to molar area. Both occlusal rims are placed in the patient’s mouth to verify the alignment of the retentive framework [Figure 1a].

Figure 1: (a) Mandibular denture with the retentive wire in place (b) Soft liner attached and molded to mandibular denture base (d) Putty index formed of labial, buccal and lingual denture surfaces (e) External form after removal of putty index
CONCLUSION

Recording of neutral zone adds to retention and stability by allowing surrounding musculature to seat within the recorded areas. Using a soft liner has extra advantages than conventional materials. It allows more working time for both patient and dentist and is not dependant on temperature changes.

REFERENCES

1. Fish EW. Using the muscles to stabilize the full lower denture. J Am Dent Assoc 1933;20:2163-9.