

Prosthodontist interview questions

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What to expect

Prosthodontist interviews assess clinical expertise, patient management, and collaboration with technicians and other specialists. Expect a mix of technical and behavioural questions, often with case discussions.

- **Process:** How you plan and sequence complex restorative cases from assessment to definitive prosthesis.
- **Technical:** Knowledge of implant systems, materials, and digital workflows such as 3Shape TRIOS and exocad.
- **Behavioural:** Working with patients, technicians, and referring dentists, including managing expectations.
- **Scenario:** Handling complications, failed restorations, or difficult patient interactions.
- **Safety:** Infection control and regulatory compliance with AHPRA and Dental Board of Australia standards.

Typically starts with a phone screen, then an in-person panel with the practice principal and senior prosthodontist. May include a case presentation or practical skills assessment. Some practices ask for a portfolio of completed cases.

1. Walk us through how you approach a complex full-mouth rehabilitation case.

Why they ask

Assesses your planning, sequencing, and ability to manage multiple phases of treatment.

How to structure your answer

Step-by-step walk-through: assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, sequencing, and review.

Example answer

"I start with a comprehensive assessment including extraoral and intraoral exams, radiographs, and digital scans. I discuss goals with the patient, then develop a plan that may involve extractions, implants, or orthodontic input. I sequence treatment in phases, often starting with any needed extractions or periodontal care, then implant placement, and finally the definitive prosthesis. I use a diagnostic wax-up to preview the outcome and adjust as needed. Throughout, I coordinate with the oral surgeon and technician, and I schedule regular reviews to monitor healing and adapt the plan."

2. How do you decide between a fixed implant-supported prosthesis and a removable overdenture?

Why they ask

Tests clinical judgement and patient-centred care in choosing the right solution.

How to structure your answer

Compare and contrast: consider bone volume, patient preference, cost, hygiene, and long-term maintenance.

Example answer

"I consider several factors. First, the available bone volume and quality, which determines implant placement options. Second, the patient's dexterity and willingness to maintain hygiene, as fixed prostheses require good oral care. Third, their functional and aesthetic goals, and their budget constraints. For a patient with severe bone loss and limited dexterity, an overdenture may be more

practical and easier to clean. For a patient with good bone and a desire for a fixed solution, I would recommend an implant-supported bridge. I always discuss the pros and cons, including maintenance and expected lifespan, so the patient can make an informed choice."

3. Tell me about a time you had to manage a patient with unrealistic expectations about their aesthetic outcome.

Why they ask

Evaluates patient communication and expectation management.

How to structure your answer

STAR: Situation, Task, Action, Result.

Example answer

"I once had a patient who wanted a complete smile makeover and expected perfect symmetry and brightness. During the consultation, I used digital smile design to show them a realistic preview of the outcome. I explained that natural teeth have subtle variations and that we could improve but not perfect their smile. We agreed on a plan with a diagnostic wax-up and trial smile. After the treatment, the patient was happy with the natural result and appreciated the honest conversation. The key was listening to their concerns and using visual tools to align expectations before starting."

4. You have fitted an implant-supported crown and the patient returns with persistent discomfort. How do you handle it?

Why they ask

Tests troubleshooting, clinical reasoning, and patient care under pressure.

How to structure your answer

Assess, diagnose, communicate, resolve: examine the area, take radiographs, check occlusion, discuss findings, and plan revision.

Example answer

"First, I would see the patient promptly and take a focused history. I would examine the implant site, check for mobility, and take a periapical radiograph to assess bone levels and implant integration. I would also check the occlusion for any high spots that could cause discomfort. If the crown is in hyperocclusion, I would adjust it. If there are signs of peri-implantitis, I would initiate treatment and possibly refer to a periodontist. I would explain the findings to the patient, outline the next steps, and schedule a review. If the implant itself is failing, I would discuss removal and replacement options."

5. What steps do you take to ensure infection control and compliance with AHPRA standards in your practice?

Why they ask

Assesses regulatory knowledge and commitment to safety.

How to structure your answer

List key protocols: sterilisation, PPE, waste management, staff training, and record keeping.

Example answer

"I follow standard precautions: hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, and safe handling of sharps. All instruments are cleaned and sterilised in a validated autoclave, with cycle logs kept. I use single-use items where appropriate and dispose of clinical waste according to state regulations. I ensure all staff complete annual infection control training and that our practice meets the Dental Board of Australia's guidelines. I also maintain accurate records of sterilisation and any incidents. Regular audits help us stay compliant and ready for accreditation."

6. How do you work with dental technicians to achieve the best prosthesis outcomes?

Why they ask

Evaluates teamwork and communication with the dental lab.

How to structure your answer

Describe the process: clear communication, detailed instructions, try-in stages, and feedback.

Example answer

"I provide technicians with comprehensive information: accurate impressions or digital scans, shade selection, photos, and a detailed prescription. I use digital workflows like 3Shape TRIOS to send files directly to the lab, which reduces errors. I schedule try-in appointments for complex cases so we can assess fit, function, and aesthetics before finalising. I maintain an open dialogue and give constructive feedback on any adjustments needed. By treating the technician as a partner, we achieve better-fitting prostheses and fewer remakes, which benefits the patient."