

# Deep bites

*Deep bites use every opportunity to deepen further.*

In dentitions with great overbites large horizontal forces are generated. This results in an increased risk of fatigue fractures of the cement, teeth and reconstruction (Figure 71-72). Deep bites constitute a big prosthetic risk factor. Early prophylactic measures should therefore be implemented for patients with this affliction in order to avoid a deepening of the overbite, and to minimise the need for future extensive and risky prosthetic treatment.

## Taking care of dentitions with deep bites

With deep bites teeth should be preserved, and

remain as intact as possible. Then the dentition has a good chance of lasting throughout life (Figure 73).

Deep bites have a tendency to deepen further. If posterior teeth are lost, or much tooth substance is missing, there is a great risk of increased deepening. If the teeth have lost much periodontal support the risk of tooth migration increases. Also, if large parts of the occlusal surfaces consist of materials with low wear resistance, there is a substantial risk of further deepening the bite. The development of the occlusion should therefore be conscientiously monitored and evaluated so that the vertical dimension can be maintained.



FIGURE 71.

**The greater the overbite and the steeper the inclination, the greater the horizontal forces during function will be. If in addition the posterior teeth are missing, the forces against the front teeth will be very great.**

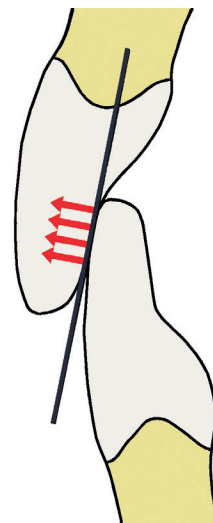


FIGURE 72.

**Picture illustrating the functional forces in figure 71.**