

Knowledge and Awareness of Dental Implants as Retreatment Modality Available for Replacement of Missing Teeth Among Dental Patients In Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Background: A cross sectional survey was conducted among 500 patients using a self-explanatory questionnaire. It was found that dentist was the main source of information, followed by friends and relatives. Majority of the patients had no idea about dental implants as treatment option for replacement of teeth. Various campaigns should be conducted to increase the awareness about dental implants.

Keywords: Awareness, Implant, Knowledge, Treatment modality.

INTRODUCTION

The average total edentulous rate around the world is 20% of the adult population at age 60 years, although there is wide disparity from the countries with the highest and lowest rates.¹ Removable soft tissue borne partial dentures have one of the lowest patient acceptance rates in dentistry. Half of the patients with a removable partial denture chew better without the device. Dental implants are one of the better preventive preventive maintenance procedures in dentistry.² A large number of patients have functional problems or psychological needs for which implants have been able to provide solutions.³ The use of implants to provide support for dental prostheses has been a treatment option since the late 1930s, but the popularity of this treatment approach increased with the introduction of the concept of osseous integration.⁴

Awareness and knowledge about dental implants should be performed to enable the patient to

choose the most appropriate option.⁵ Many studies have been conducted worldwide to assess the awareness about dental implants. To the best of our knowledge there is no such study conducted in Punjab. So, the aim of this study is to assess the knowledge and awareness of treatment options available for replacement of missing teeth among dental patients in Punjab.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross sectional survey was conducted over a period of 6 months among patients of both sexes in the department of Prosthodontics at BJS Dental College. A total of 500 patients took part in the study after signing informed consent. A self explanatory questionnaire was designed to assess their knowledge regarding dental implant as treatment option for replacement of teeth. The questionnaire consisted of two parts. First part

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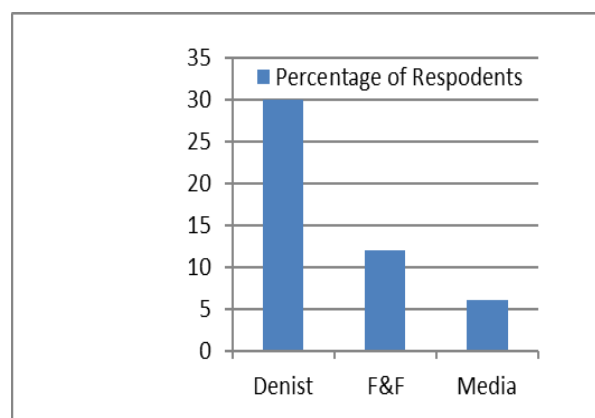
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included socio-demographic information and the second part included questions regarding awareness and knowledge about dental implants. Fisher's exact test was used to determine the results.

RESULTS

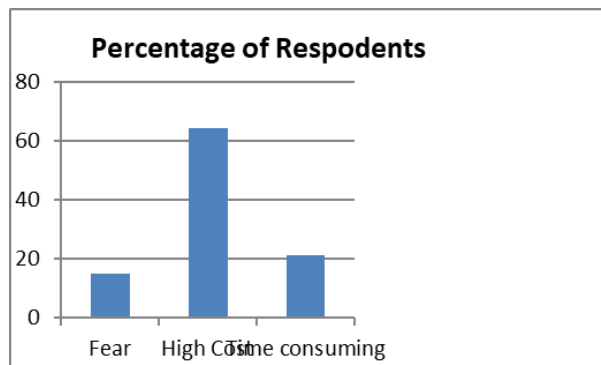
A total of 500 subjects were surveyed ; out of these 43% were male and 57% were female within the age group of 18 to 80 years. Regarding education in the study group , 7%were illiterate, 63% were under below secondary education and 30% were above graduation

Majority of the patients had no idea about dental implants as treatment option for replacemen of teeth. About 54% of the patients had not heard about the implants. In patients who were aware of dental implant, dentist was the main source of information(30%), followed by friends and relatives(12%). Very few patients got the information via electronic media(6%)(Graph 1).



Graph 1: Source of information.

Regarding their interest in knowing more about dental implants , majority of the patients 80% showed their interest while 20% of the patients were not interested. Only 10% of the patients agreed to undergo implant treatment after the procedure was explained to them. Cost (64%)was the main factor for patients not willing to undergo implant treatment ,followed by fear of surgery(15%) and long time period required for implant treatment(21%)(Graph 2).



Graph 2 Reason for not having implant treatment

Table 1: Shows no statistically significant difference was seen in the awareness between male and female patients. (Gender and awareness)

Data analysed	Aware	Not Aware	Total
Males	95 19%	120 24%	215 43%
Females	135 27%	150 30%	285 57%
Total	230 46%	270 54%	500

P value .5260 Not significant

Table 2 shows statistically significant difference between the awareness and educational level of the patients. Education plays important role affecting awareness of the population. Education and awareness

Data analysed	Aware	Not Aware	Total
Below +2	150	225	375
Above+2	90	35	125
Total	240	260	500

p<.0001 statistically significant

Most of the patients (60%)thought that implant teeth need same oral hygiene as natural teeth. 30 % patients thought implant teeth need more oral hygiene than natural teeth wheras only 10% patients thought that implant teeth do not need care. Regarding life span of the dental implants 60% patients thought implants last for 15- 20 years whereas 33% patients had opinion that implant last for 10 years. Only 7% thought implant last for the lifetime. Majority of the patients had no idea if their dentists practiced dental implant treatment.

DISCUSSION

,It was found in our study that dentist was the main source of information, followed by friends and relatives. This is in agreement with the studies

conducted by Kohli S et al⁶. and Pommer et al.⁷ , Suprakash et al.⁸, Chaudhary et al.⁹, which showed dentist as main source of hearing about dental implants followed by relatives and friends. This indicated less efforts put up by dentists in creating awareness regarding dental implants. In some previous studies conducted by Al Johany. S¹⁰ and Zimmer¹¹, main source of information about dental implant was the relatives and friends, followed by the dentists, newspaper and magazines, and lastly the internet.

High treatment cost, long treatment time, fear of surgery were the reasons for patients not opting for dental implants. Fear of surgery was main reason for older edentulous patients for not going for implants. High cost was the most common reason given by patients which prevented them for implant treatment. Previous studies ^{8,10,12,13} also show the same results. Dental insurance coverage should be provided for implant treatment. No statistically significant difference was found in the awareness between male and female patients. Whereas in a study conducted by Suprakash B et al⁸. A significant gender difference was observed in the knowledge and attitude, with females having a lower mean scores compared with males ($p = 0.000$)

Statistically significant difference between the awareness and educational level of the patients. This shows education plays important role affecting awareness of the population. Low education level might be the reason for less awareness of the people as 63% of the studied population were less than secondary school level. In the studies conducted by Pommer⁷, and Tepper¹² and Berge¹⁴ , awareness levels were above 70% whereas in our study only 46% of the patients were aware of dental implants. Again low literacy level of India might be the reason for the same.

Only 7% of the patients who were aware of the implants, thought that implant would last for the lifetime whereas in studies conducted by Tepper et al, and Tomruck et al., 46%, 33% and 28% of the patients felt that implants lasted for lifetime ^{12,15,16}. Most of the patients were interested in having knowledge about the same, so more efforts should be made by the dentists to create awareness about this treatment modality.

CONCLUSION

With in the limitations of this study, it can be concluded that only 46% of the people of Punjab were aware about dental implants as a treatment option. High cost was main reason for not opting for implants. Various public awareness campaigns should be conducted to increase awareness about dental implants. Dentists should put more efforts in providing complete information about the implant treatment. Efforts should be made by the government to lower the cost of implants so that people can easily afford the treatment for better life.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare they have no potential conflict of interests regarding this article.

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