

Evaluation of Patient Willingness Towards Various Treatment Modalities in a Partially Edentulous Condition in Kurnool Population

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The aim of this short study is to assess the level of knowledge, awareness, sources and need for information about various treatment modalities available along with willingness of patients to opt different types of treatment modalities in a partially edentulous condition.

Material and methodology: A self-administered questionnaire were distributed to the patients attending to the OPD of department of prosthodontics in G. Pullareddy Dental College and Hospital, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh during a period of six months i.e, from November 2015 to april 2016 above 20 years of age irrespective of gender were included in the study.

Results: 80% of the study population preferred fixed partial dentures. 12% of the study population preferred removable partial dentures. 83% were not aware of dental implant treatment as an alternative of missing teeth. 98% of the study population think conducting awareness camps on recent advances of replacing missing teeth will be helpful to the create awareness in public.

Conclusion: Majority of the study population was unaware of dental implants. This study showed that the awareness among people is significantly low. The demands for dental replacements by patients were different when compared with the actual needs.

Keywords: Treatment modalities, partially edentulous, RPD, FPD, dental implants.

INTRODUCTION

An edentulous space is a gap in the dental arch normally occupied by one tooth or more. It could be partial or complete. Various ways of restoring missing teeth include fixed partial prostheses, removable partial or complete prostheses and dental implants. A removable partial or complete denture replaces some or all teeth and contiguous structures for edentulous or partially dentate patients by artificial substitutes that are

removable from the mouth.¹ Removable dental prosthesis can be further divided into complete removable dental prosthesis and partial removable dental prosthesis. Complete denture prosthesis can further be divided into the conventional complete denture, single complete denture, immediate or treatment denture and single complete denture.^{1,2,3} Currently, dental implants are widely accepted as a prosthetic treatment of completely or partially edentulous patients. Information about dental implants can be provided by media (journal,

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newspaper, TV, and broadcasts, magazines and internet), friends and acquaintances, dentists and general practitioners. Lack of adequate awareness exists in people about dental implant as a treatment modality. Awareness amongst patients regarding the procedure can help in eliminating negative image of the procedure that may have been caused due to lack of adequate communication.⁴

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

A self administered questionnaire was distributed to the out patients attending to the department of prosthodontics from November 2015 to april 2016 i.e, a period of six months. Sample size is 400.

The inclusion criteria are:

- 1) Patient age between 20 to 60 years
- 2) No gender discrimination
- 3) Atleast a single missing tooth should be present

RESULTS

Table 1: What alternative options do you know for replacing missing teeth.

	Sample	%
1. Removable dentures	144	36
2. Fixed dentures	156	39
3. Implant supported dentures/bridges	41	11.22
4. Not aware	59	15.61

2. Are you aware of dental implant treatment as an alternative for missing teeth ?

- a) Yes – 70 (17%)
- b) Not aware – 330 (83%)

Table 2: If you have heard of dental implants, from where have you heard about it ?

	Sam ple	%
1. Newspaper/Magazines/Articles/Journal	05	1.25
2. T.V/Radio	04	1
3. Dentist	61	15.25
4. Not aware	330	82.5

4. Are you willing to undergo an implant treatment if needed?

- a) YES – 265 (66%)
- b) NO – 135 (34%)

Table 3: If yes, reasons

	Sample	%
No need for crowns for adjacent teeth	35	13.21
Easy to maintain oral hygiene	30	11.32
Because it was suggested by the dentist	200	75.47

Table 4: If no, reasons

	Sample	%
High cost	30	22.22
Lack of knowledge	54	40.00
Need of surgery	36	26.67
Long term treatment	15	11.11

7. Do you prefer removable dentures ?

- a) YES – 48(12%)
- b) NO – 352(82%)

Table 5: If yes, reasons.

	Sample	%
Less cost	18	37.50
Less time for treatment	10	20.83
Because it was suggested by the dentist	20	41.67

Table 6: If no, reasons.

	Sample	%
Removal and replacement	150	42.61
Unpleasantness due to wires in the oral cavity	30	8.52
Unpleasant odour if not cleaned properly	172	48.86

10. Do u prefer fixed partial dentures over removal partial dentures ?

- a) YES – 320(80%)
- b) NO -80(20%)

Table7: If yes, reasons

	Sample	%
It is fixed, no need to remove and place	170	53.13
Resembles natural teeth	110	34.38
No need to wear wires for the natural teeth	30	9.38
No need to place denture on palate	10	3.13

12. Do you think conducting awareness camps on recent advances of replacing teeth will be helpful to the patients ?

a) YES – 392(98%)

b) Not aware -8(2%)

DISCUSSION

From the survey, the alternative options most of the samples know were fixed and removable partial dentures. About 83% samples were unaware of dental implant treatment. The main source of publicity is through dentist only. This finding was similar to study done by Johany SA et al.(2010)⁵, Choudhary et al (2010)⁶, Saha A et al(2013)⁷ which also stated that most of the people got to know about implants by the dental professional. Due to lack of knowledge 40% and due to high cost 20% of samples were not ready to undergo implant treatment.

Tepper et al, (2003)⁸, in their study also found that high cost is main reason for not accepting implant treatment. The high costs of the procedure indicated that there was a need for dental insurance to cover the treatment for better and more acceptance of this treatment amongst the Indian people .80% of samples preferred fixed partial dentures rather than removable dentures due to removal and replacement difficulties, unpleasant odour. 98% of samples suggest conducting awareness camps on recent advances of replacing missing teeth. However these findings were lower than studies conducted by Zimmer et al(1992)⁹, Berge(2000)⁴, Tepper et al (2003)⁸ which reported the level of awareness as 77%, 70.1% and 72%, respectively .This may be because most of the patients in this study were of rural area.

CONCLUSION

As displayed by the results of this study, patients lack the awareness and motivation for replacing their missing teeth. Therefore, the focus on the dental outreach camps should be conducted and oriented towards understanding the needs of the patients, their preferences and on improving the awareness and knowledge that they have on dental prosthesis. The above actions should go hand in hand with the proper patient education regarding the pros and cons associated with each treatment modalities to replace the missing teeth.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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