

AWARENESS OF DIFFERENT TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR MISSING TEETH IN PATIENT VISITED AT HAMDARD UNIVERSITY DENTAL HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to know the awareness, level of knowledge and attitude about teeth-replacement options among patients who visited Hamdard University Dental Hospital for prosthodontic treatment. A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to patients reported to Prosthodontics Department at Hamdard University Dental Hospital. Questions focused on the awareness to replace the missing teeth and the preferable methods of choice for replacement. Age limits of the participants ranged between 14-77 years. All the participants were partially edentulous excluding the third molars. A total of 201 patients were examined, 114 were males and 87 females. Data were analyzed by Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version-16. Descriptive statistics i.e., frequencies were computed. Results of the present study showed that patient's awareness was 45% for fixed partial denture, 26% for acrylic removable partial denture, 17% for cast partial denture and only 4% for implants. The patients awareness for different treatment options for missing teeth was very low. So there is a need to increase the awareness about various dental prosthesis among patients need replacement for missing teeth. The oral health care providers have to play a vital role in this regard.

Key Words: Awareness, Treatment Options and Missing Teeth.

INTRODUCTION

Oral health is important to such an extent that it can hinder a person's ability to work and concentrate on his routine. Tooth loss is one of the most important factor which causes distress and some time devastating affect the person's quality life.¹ Replacement of missing teeth by dental prosthesis depends upon multiple factors, among those factors awareness of the patients about dental prosthesis is one of the very important factor.²

Broadly speaking Prosthodontics treatment can be divided into two main categories i.e. either removable prosthesis or fixed prosthesis. Improved knowledge and awareness in the patients seeking prosthodontic

treatment can help these patients to select more appropriate dental prosthesis for them.³ Requirements such as esthetics and functional comfort are considered more important in selection of dental prosthesis and also replacement of anterior is considered more important than posterior teeth by some patients.⁴

Other factors like age, gender, socio economic status, number of missing teeth are also very significant in selection of dental prosthesis. Younger age persons are more interested to have implant supported prosthesis rather than conventional prosthesis. Females are more interested to have replacement of teeth as early as possible.⁵

For Prosthodontist it is important to know whether patients feel adequately informed and if their knowledge reflects reality; this helps to match patient expectations with what can be achieved. Without access to current and accurate information, patients may have contradictory information supplied by media and industry, which does not always reflect evidence-based practice.⁶

Media, in particular, could be the main source of information in some countries, while in others, dentists were found to be the main source of information. However, a variety of social and cultural influences, attitudes, and beliefs may determine patients' acceptance of the esthetic aspects of prosthodontic treatment.⁷

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The aim of this study was to assess the level of awareness and knowledge about dental prosthesis among a selected sample of patients who visited Hamdard University Dental Hospital, Karachi.

METHODOLOGY

Two hundred and one patients formed the group and were randomly selected. The study was conducted at Hamdard University Dental Hospital in 2013 and was spread over 12 months.

After taking consent data was collected by asking questions from self designed questionnaire from the participants. The first part of the questionnaire was about gender, age, marital status and education. While the second part comprised of questions to evaluate awareness about different dental prosthesis.

Of the total participants selected, 114 were males and 87 females. Age of the patients varied from 14-77 years. The criterion for selection of subjects was partial edentulous patients excluding third molar. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16 was used for data analysis. Descriptive statistics were made. Frequencies were drawn which showed awareness of different treatment options among males and females.

RESULTS

Among selected patient 60.6% were aware about fixed partial dentures (FPD), 54.2% for acrylic removable partial dentures (RPD), 22.8% for cast partial dentures (CPD) and 5.5% for Dental Implants (DI) as shown in Fig 1.

DISCUSSION

Dental health has impact on the general health status. With loss of teeth, it is not only the dental and general health that is compromised but also effects psychological status of the patients. It is therefore necessary to replace missing tooth / teeth as early as possible to retard the deteriorating oral and general health status.⁸

Patient's knowledge and awareness about dental prosthesis is one of the key factors in selection of any particular dental prosthesis. There are many ways to determine patient's knowledge and awareness. In this study a self designed questionnaire was used for this purpose, Rustemeyer et al also used a questionnaire to determine patient's knowledge and awareness about dental prosthesis.⁹

Many other factors like age, gender, education, socioeconomic status, location and number of missing teeth are also important factors regarding awareness about different dental prosthesis. Abdurahiman et al¹⁰ noticed that young age patients have more awareness as compared to old age patients. Similarly females having more knowledge as compared to males. These finding are similar to this study.

Schützhold et al found that educational status and socioeconomic back ground are also critical factors to increase awareness about dental prosthesis. They reported that patients having higher education showed better dental prosthesis awareness, which is similar to this study.^{11,12}

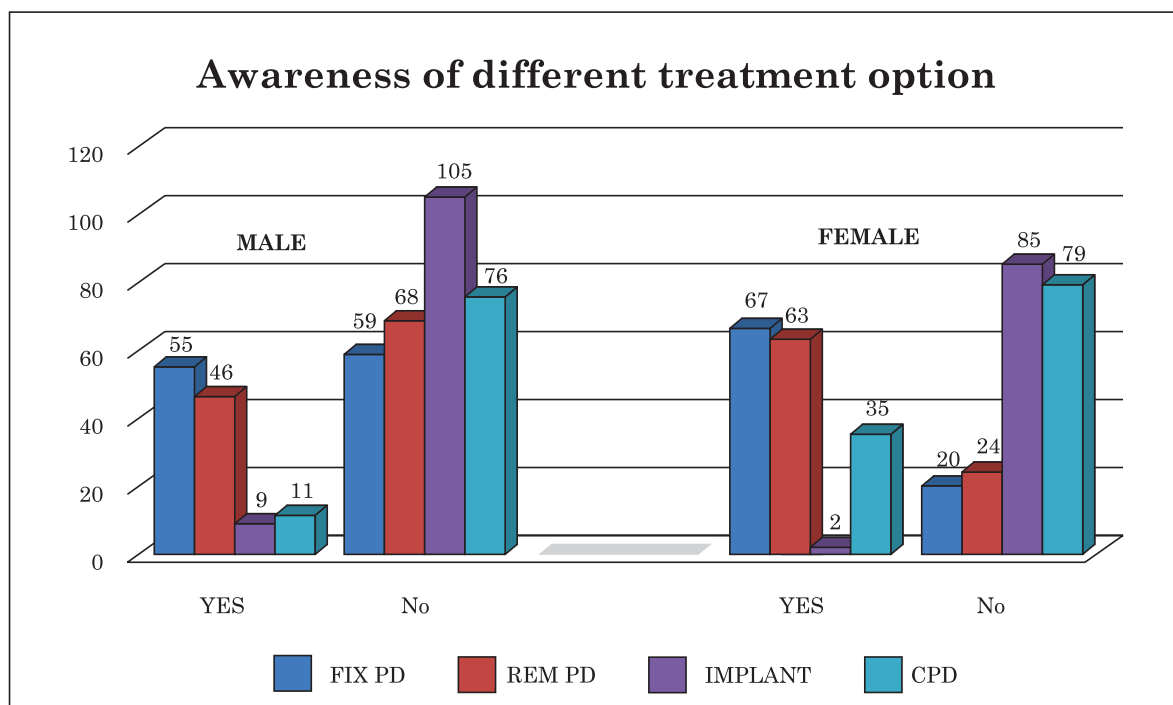


Fig 1: Shows awareness of different treatment options in males and females

In this study 77% patients had knowledge about removable partial dentures, out of them 54.2% patients were aware about acrylic dentures while 22.8% were aware about cast partial dentures. No patient in this study was aware about immediate denture.

In the present study awareness regarding implant supported prosthesis was only 5.5% which is in contrast to the study conducted in India by Sahah et al¹³ where awareness regarding implant supported prosthesis was 41.7% which was very high. Similarly the study conducted by Berge in Norway reported even more awareness about dental implant which was 70.1%.¹⁴

In general, the results obtained in this study revealed that awareness of patients about different dental prosthesis is very low. There is an immense need to improve awareness of the patients. Oral health care providers, friends, family members and media all have to play a major role in this regard.¹⁵

It is because of awareness, which helps the patients to have early replacement of missing teeth. The timely provision of adequate dental prosthesis will help the patients to achieve better quality of life.¹⁶

CONCLUSION

The patient awareness for different treatment options for missing teeth was found very low. So there is a need to make the patients aware about various dental prosthesis.

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