

A Survey of Hospital to Determine the Level of Patients' Awareness and Knowledge Regarding the Use of Dental Implants to Replace Missing Teeth

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Abstract

Introduction: It is necessary for patients to have awareness about the usage of implants, and for this reason, it is essential to have communication that is both effective and appropriate. Patients who are receiving treatment in a hospital setting will be surveyed to determine their level of awareness and understanding of dental implants as a potential method of therapy to replace lost teeth.

Materials and methods: A standardised self-explanatory questionnaire, which was written up and handed out in a hospital setting. During their regularly scheduled dental appointments, the patients were given the questionnaires to fill out. In all, there were 450 individuals that participated in this poll.

Results: The findings revealed that 62.5% of patients have some prior information about dental implants. The majority of the sample (35%) received the majority of their knowledge on dental implants from their friends and family, while the remaining 30% received the most of their information from dentists. In 87.5% of the instances, patients were discouraged from getting implants due to the fact that they were concerned about the cost effectiveness.

Conclusion: The awareness and understanding regarding dental implants in the respondents was satisfactory, according to the findings of a study that was conducted on a representative sample of dental patients in Hyderabad, India. Patients still need more comprehensive and precise information regarding this most recent therapy approach, which should be provided to them as soon as possible.

Keywords: Implant, Missing Teeth, Complete Denture, Removable Partial Denture, and Fixed Partial Denture are some of the keywords that may be used here.

INTRODUCTION

It is essential for dentists who are now in practise to ascertain whether or not modern patients are familiar with dental implants as a treatment option and whether or not the information that their patients possess is accurate. Fixed dental prostheses have been the most popular kind of tooth replacement offered by dental prosthetics for a significant number of years (FDPs). Nevertheless, an unneeded amount of hard tissue is lost during the preparation of the two abutment teeth. As a successful response to this problem, implant-supported FDPs have since come into existence as a viable option. Dental implants are now generally recognised as a prosthetic treatment option for individuals who are either entirely edentulous or partly edentulous. As a consequence of this, dental implants gained significant recognition and appeal among members of the dental professional community. The amount of people who are aware of dental implant therapy varies greatly from one study to the next and from country to country. 1-3 In Turkey, the awareness was at 60.9%, while in Pakistan it was 39.8%, in Nepal it was 52.6%, in the United States it was 85%, and in Austria it was 79%. 4-8 Various polls conducted in India arrived at varying numbers, ranging from 25% to 33%. 9,10 To prevent a poor image of implant dentists brought on by a communications gap and consumer unhappiness, it is helpful to learn what the patients know about implants. This helps to align the patients' expectations with

what can actually be accomplished. As a result, this research was carried out to assess the level of awareness and understanding of dental implants as a potential course of therapy for patients in Hyderabad, India who were missing teeth.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A standardised questionnaire with built-in explanations was developed and handed out to patients in the hospital. During their regularly scheduled dental appointments, the patients were given the questionnaires to fill out. In all, there were 450 individuals that participated in this poll. Tepper et al. served as the research foundation for the questionnaire.¹¹ The whole questionnaire consisted of 17 questions, which were used to evaluate the following factors: The amount of information available on dental implants as a method for replacing teeth that have been lost. In comparison to more traditional treatment techniques, the level of acceptability that dental implants have gained as a therapeutic option in recent years. During their regularly scheduled dental appointments, the patients were given the questionnaires to fill out.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The data were analysed using SPSS Version 20 and reported using mean and standard deviation (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, IBM Corp., Armonk, NY: USA). We used the Chi-square test in addition to an independent t-test for two samples for testing unpaired data. A p value of less than 0.05 was regarded as statistically significant.

RESULTS

Out of 500 issued surveys, 400 replied (88.88%). The participants whose ages ranged from 30 to 40 years were the most numerous, followed by those whose ages ranged from 40 to 50 years. 71% were men, whereas just 29% were females in the sample. In response to the questions designed to evaluate the level of knowledge and awareness regarding the various treatments available for replacing missing teeth, the results showed that 86 percent of respondents were familiar with removable dentures, 81 percent were familiar with fixed partial dentures, and 63 percent were familiar with dental implants. 56% of subjects believed that dental implants are placed in the jawbone, while 21% thought that it is placed in the gingiva, 8% thought that it is placed in the teeth that are adjacent to the implant, and 13% of the sample did not know where the dental implants are placed. The questions were designed to assess the level of general knowledge about dental implants (Table 1).

S no	Site of dental implant placement	Number of Subjects	Percentage of subjects
1	The jawbone	223	55.75%
2	In the gingiva	87	21 %
3	Neighbouring teeth	33	7.90 %
4	Did not know	57	13.22%
5	Total	400	100%

Table-1: Awareness Among Subjects About Site of Dental Implant Placement

Responses to the question regarding the lifespan of dental implants were varied, with 10% of respondents believing that it is less than 5 years, 18.75% believing that it is between 5 and 10 years, 37.5% believing that it is between 10 and 15 years, 31.25% believing that it is between 15 and 20 years, and 12.5% not knowing (Table 2). Concerning the reasons behind the failure of implants, 45% of the subjects believed that it could be attributed to improper oral hygiene, 30% believed that it could be attributed to the quality of the dental implant and the treatment provided by the dentist, and the remaining 25% did not know the reason behind the failure of implants (Table 3).

Table-2: awareness among subjects about life span of dental Implants		
S No	Life span of dental implant	Number of subjects
1	Less than 5 years	42
2	5 To 10 years	73
3	10 To 15 years	147
4	15 To 20 years	128
5	Did not know	50
6	Total	400

Table-3: Awareness among subjects about causes of implant failure		
S No	Cause implant failure	Number of subjects
1	Poor oral hygiene	178
2	Quality of the dental implant and treatment provided by the dentist	122
3	Did not know	100
4	Total	400

In response to a question about the optimal method of care and hygiene for dental implants, 20% of respondents believed that implants should be cleaned in the same manner as natural teeth, while 65% believed that implants require more care than natural teeth and 15% believed that implants require less care than natural teeth (Table 4).

Table-4: awareness among subjects about the ideal care and hygiene of dental implants		
S no	Ideal care and hygiene of dental implants	Number of subjects
1	Implants should be cleaned similar to natural teeth	78
2	Implants need more care than natural teeth	262
3	Implants need less care than natural teeth	60
4	Total	400

Concerning the origin of the information, the majority of respondents (35%) said that their friends and family were their primary source of knowledge on dental implants, while dentists were the secondary source for 30% of the sample. In 87.5% of the instances, patients were discouraged from getting implants due to the fact that they were concerned about the cost effectiveness.

DISCUSSION

Numerous investigations that have been carried out on the subject of dental implants ever since its first introduction have all arrived to the same conclusive good conclusion. As a result, it is essential to have an understanding of the level of information and awareness that patients have about the option of having dental implants placed in place of teeth that have been removed. The findings of this study have shown that individuals in developing nations have a rising awareness and understanding about the many alternatives available to replace teeth that have been lost. This was validated by the findings of the survey. 4-6

Other techniques of data gathering, such as utilising mails, handouts, or phone interviews, were used, but in this research, the patients were evaluated face to face by our investigators. As a consequence, the findings were more accurate when compared to those obtained from those other ways of data collection. In order to achieve success with dental implants over the long term, it is essential to take care of the surrounding oral tissue and keep it healthy. Peri-implant disease may be avoided by practising good dental hygiene and care, such as rinsing the mouth and using mouth rinses, as well as utilising soft toothbrushes, interdental brushes, specifically designed cleaning equipment manufactured from hard plastics, and so on. 5-8

We conducted a survey and discovered that 63% of respondents were familiar with dental implants as an option for replacing lost teeth. The results of this study are comparable to those found by Zimmer et al. (1992), Berge (2000), and Tepper et al. (2003), who found that the degree of awareness was 77%, 70.1%, and 72%, respectively. 11-13

Our research also revealed that their friends and family were the primary source of knowledge regarding dental implants for 35% of the sample (140 individuals), while dentists were the secondary source of information for 30% (120 individuals) of the sample. This is in contrast to the things that were previously reported. According to the findings of a study that was carried out by Zimmer et al., it was discovered that the media was the primary source of information on dental implants, whilst dentists were only the source of such information in a maximum of 17% of the instances. 13 It was also discovered by Berge (2000) that the media was the primary source of knowledge, whereas dentists only had a supporting or tertiary role at best. In the study that Akagawa and colleagues (1988) conducted, the researchers came to the conclusion that dentists contributed no more than 20% of the information. 12,14,15,16,17

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study, which was conducted among a representative sample of the population, suggested that the vast majority of the people who were asked about dental implants, their applications, or the benefits and drawbacks associated with them. Still, there is a need for bringing greater knowledge about dental implants. This may be accomplished via the implementation of a variety of public awareness campaigns and the establishment of counselling centres in the patient outpatient ward of private dental clinics and dentistry schools. It is especially important to focus on enhancing the level of information held by women and those with lower levels of education. It is important that efforts be made to bring down the price of the implants so that they are within everyone's financial reach to purchase them.

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