



PUBLIC AWARENESS ON REPLACEMENT OF MISSING TEETH

Dr. R Prabhu	MDS; PhD (research scholar)- Professor, Thai Moogambigai dental college and hospital
Dr. K R Geetha	MDS., Professors, Thai Moogambigai Dental College And Hospital
Dr. R Kesavan	MDS., Reader, Thai Moogambigai Dental College And Hospital
Dr. N Manikandan*	CRI Junior Resident, Thai Moogambigai Dental College And Hospital *Corresponding Author
Dr. M Nathiya	CRI, Junior Resident, Thai Moogambigai Dental College And Hospital

ABSTRACT

The aim of the study is to understand the attitude among the Indian population and the awareness regarding replacement of the missing teeth. The study was preceded with a bilingual questionnaire distributed among the public with missing teeth. The questions were oriented mostly among the number of the missing teeth, their previous experience, duration & difficulties faced with missing teeth, their knowledge regarding replacement and the advancements in the field. The article summarises the updates available through the survey conducted with statistical and tabulated values for understanding.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION:

Though there is an enormous amount of refinement in the field of Prosthetic dentistry regarding the treatment plan¹ to be followed for a patient yet a dentist faces difficulties while planning due to the various modes of awareness among the patients. This awareness among the patient lead to a lot of expectations and challenges for the dentist to fulfil the patient. Aesthetic and function is the main goal to be restored while replacing an edentulous space². Patients are willing to undergo the various treatment procedures for the replacement only if the treatment satisfies them in ways like looks, activity, a state of ease while wearing, adaptability and finally under their financial resource³. The article summarizes the public view regarding replacement of missing teeth and their requirements. Analysis and interpretation of the obtained answers was made along with statistical reports for better understanding. This is explained in detail in the article with the necessary information and charts.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

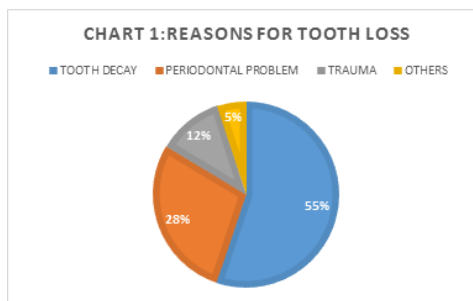
An observational analysis was conducted among the public population of various age groups with a mean age of 49.9 and mostly oriented on people having missing teeth. A questionnaire consisting of twenty questions regarding the awareness and replacement of their missing teeth. The questions were based on cause & duration of their tooth loss, the number of edentulous spaces, their knowledge regarding replacement and its advantages, the advancements in the field of prosthodontics, their preferences for replacement and anxiousness regarding the treatment procedure.

The sample size of the studied public is 201nos. consisting of 106 – Male and 95-Female residing in Mogappair, Chennai, India. The questionnaire was given out in local language (Tamil) and English for better results. The results were analysed along with statistical reports for elaboration of the knowledge.

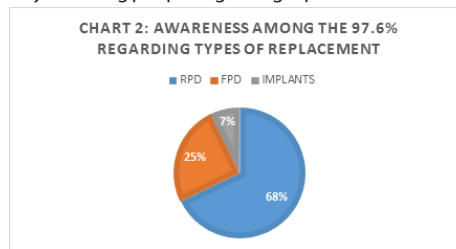
RESULTS:

The correlation between the obtained data are analysed and reported as the following. The number of lost teeth was mostly around 2 to 6 teeth (48.95%) and the least being a single tooth missing (16.9%). The reason for the loss of teeth was decay (55.2%) in most of the reported cases followed by periodontal problems (28.4%), trauma (11.4%) and other dental problems (5%). (**Chart 1**). The duration of edentulous state was reported to be more than 1 year (40.8%), for a year (31.8%), for around six months (19.9%) and

recent extraction within months (7.5%).



Majority of the population regarded the replacement of missing teeth as a necessity (83.5%), with only 14.9% of people wanting to replace the anterior teeth as an aesthetic perceptive and most of them (50.2%) want to replace both anterior and posterior teeth for proper functioning and aesthetics. Most of them had no history of previous replacement (66.5%). 97.6% of the studied public had knowledge regarding replacement and 68% were only aware of removable replacement, 25% were aware of fixed replacement and only 7% were aware of the advanced techniques like Implants (chart 2). Their awareness about the procedure and advancements was mainly from a dental professional (68.7) rather than media and communication (31.3%). Their neglect towards the replacement of the teeth is mainly due to fear (40.8%), financial problems (24.9%), 23.9% were due to other personal issues and only 10.4% were due to certain myth among people regarding replacement.



Around 56.2% of the public chose removable denture prosthesis (RPD) as their option of replacement since its cost effective and easy to use 36.8%. On the contrary 51.6% of public opted fixed dental prosthesis (FPD) stating the reason it's fixed, 25% for chewing ability and 23.4% for facial appearance. Very few are aware of the types of fixed dental prosthesis 74.6% and among the few 25.4% aware of the types most of them suggested all ceramic restorations (16.4%).

44.8% also neglected fixed dental prosthesis due to economic status.

Though the awareness regarding fixed dental prosthesis and its advancements are rare people opted for Dental Implants 60.2% stating it's permanent. With 47.8% opposing it since it's still a luxury among the Indian families with financial status. Very rarely 38.8% faced anxiousness and fear regarding the treatment and its outcome.

DISCUSSION:

The varied population, financial status, knowledge and familial status play an active role in the attitude of the patient towards the dental professional's treatment plan regarding the replacement of the missing teeth. So contradiction still prevails among the dentist and the patient towards replacement. The dentist is in a situation to replace the teeth with best possible treatment plan under the comfort and convenience of the patient⁴. Hence a transverse-study was conducted in the locality of Mogappair, Chennai, India among a selective population with missing teeth and a varied age group. Public also showed negligence and disinterest with increase in age and economical issues⁵. Only very few populations wanted replacement with aesthetics as their main perspective whereas the rest opted replacement only for function 50.2% rather than aesthetics⁷. The studies revealed that irrespective of age and gender the population with awareness and knowledge regarding replacement of teeth opted removable denture prosthesis 56.2% since its cheaper when compared to fixed prosthesis which is expensive 47.8%⁶. 41.3% also stated that they have an elderly feeling when they use removable dentures⁸. Though only fewer populations are aware of dental implants most of them 47.8%⁹ stated that it's expensive.

CONCLUSION:

Thus the study concludes that amidst the financial issues varied reasons patients are willing to replace their missing teeth. Hence the dentist has to be updated in all the recent advancements and techniques to provide them with better reasoning and a proper treatment plan to fulfil the patients' needs and requirements. The professional is at the critical point in front of the patient to let him cross their borders of anxiousness and fear regarding the treatment plan and its future outcomes. With these efforts from the dental professional patient is encouraged and motivated to select among the varied suitable options available for them.

REFERENCES

1. Trends in Prosthodontics - Karger Publishers, GE Carlsson-2006.
2. Prosthetic considerations. Mericske-Stern R, Aust Dent J. 2008 Jun;53.
3. Awareness, attitudes, need and demand on replacement of missing teeth among a group of partially dentate patients attending a University Dental Hospital Rasika Manori et al 2017.
4. Maupome G, MacEntee MI. Prosthodontic profiles relating to economic status, social network, and social support in an elderly population living independently in Canada. J Prosthet Dent 1998;80:598-604.
5. Macek MD, Cohen LA, Reid BC, Manski RJ. Dental visits among older U.S. adults, 1999: the roles of dentition status and cost. J Am Dent Assoc 2004;135:1154-62.
6. Leake JL, Hawkins R, Locker D. Social and functional: impact of reduced posterior dental units in older adults. J Oral Rehabil 1994;21:1-10.
7. Zarb GA, Bergman B, Clayton JA, Mocky HF. Prosthodontic treatment for partially edentulous patients. Maryland Heights: Mosby; 1978. p. 56-62.
8. Patients' Satisfaction with Partial Denture Therapy, D Knezović-Zlatarić - 2000.
9. Patients awareness and attitude towards dental implants, S Kohli - 2015.