



## PROSPECTIVE OF ORAL PATHOLOGY AS PROFESSION IN JAMMU & KASHMIR DENTAL STUDENTS - A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Choosing a postgraduate branch in dentistry after bachelor's degree is quite complex and difficult, as all specialties have their own where all branches have their own importance and applicability. In such situation dental graduate should evaluate his own capability and interest rather than any pressure or persuasion from his friends or parents and hence accordingly make his selection for post-graduation specialization. The ambitions of an aspiring candidate in a particular specialty in turn contribute a lot for the future of that specialty especially in oral pathology which has the responsibility of diagnosing and eradicating precancerous and cancerous lesions. So, the study aimed to determine the fact whether the dental students in private and government dental colleges in jammu & kashmir are interesting in choosing oral pathology as a postgraduate branch after B.D.S.

**Methods:** A questionnaire-based study was conducted among 400 students of third year, final year and interns of B.D.S. The questionnaire consisted of eight close ended and one open ended items which included career choice-related questions and demographic (age and gender) data. Finally, data was collected and presented as frequency distribution.

**Results:** Overall majority of students choose clinical department as choice about 65% (260/400) and 25% (100/400) were those who wanted to done postgraduation in oral pathology. 10% (40/400) students shown no interest in doing postgraduation after B.D.S.

**Conclusions:** Mostly under graduate dental students have shown interest in clinical branch for the postgraduation that may be due to more opportunities in clinical department and more private practice.

**KEYWORDS :** Oral pathology, Postgraduation, Dental Students.

### INTRODUCTION

Oral and maxillofacial pathology is the specialty of dentistry and pathology which deals with nature, identification, and management of diseases affecting oral and maxillofacial regions. Nowadays there is an increasing number of oral cancer and microbial diseases. The tremendous growth in molecular based techniques, immunology, genetics, broadens scope of this branch to a great height. It includes normal histology, normal oral anatomy, and pathologies of oral and paraoral structures.

This subject is taught in 1st, 2nd & 3rd year of undergraduate students. It plays very important role laying down the foundation for dental students. Major challenge confronting educators in oral pathology today is what to teach undergraduate and graduate students in dental schools so that the curriculum is relevant to a practicing dentist or dental specialist. This complex issue not only involves the opinions of oral pathology educators but also includes the opinions of dental graduates, educators in other dental disciplines outside of oral pathology, and students in dental programs.

Sir William Osler, a Canadian physician, once quoted "As is our pathology, so is our practice." Although it is virtually impossible to know all the oral lesions and conditions, a fundamental knowledge of oral pathology is essential to become a successful dental clinician. Most dental physicians do not have a problem in diagnosing caries or periodontitis, the two most common lesions of the oral cavity. Diagnosis determines the treatment and sometimes if we fail to distinguish between reversible and irreversible pulpitis, or a benign and a malignant neoplasm, the choice of treatment becomes critical.<sup>1</sup>

But no study has been conducted previously to know the choice of oral pathology as a career option in M.D.S. among the students pursuing under graduation in dentistry. Thus the aim of our study was to find out scope for choosing oral pathology and microbiology as a career option in M.D.S in jammu & kashmir.<sup>2,3</sup>

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

This questionnaire based, cross-sectional survey was conducted during July 2018 and August 2018. Third year, Final year students

and interns of 2 dental colleges of Jammu (J&K) were asked to fill self administered questionnaire based on interest of students in Oral Pathology as a future branch for their Post graduation. A total of 400 undergraduate dental students were approached for their participation in the survey. After explaining the aims and objectives of the study, verbal consents were obtained from the participants prior to the start of the survey.

Questions	Yes	No	OTHERS
Would you like to do post graduation after B.D.S			
Do you interested in oral pathology			
Will you do m.d.s in oral pathology			
Would you like to choose m.d.s on your own/or under family pressure			
Do you think oral pathology is an interested branch			
Do you think oral pathology has a good scope			
Do you think oral pathology has an important role in treatment of oral lesions			

### RESULTS

A total of 400 of the 400 registered undergraduate students participated in the study, with an overall response rate of 100%. Among 400 students, 128 (32%) were males and 272 (68%) were females. The age distribution was in between 17-23 years. Participation varied according to the years of study 30.7%, 40.1% and 29.2% for third year, fourth year and interns respectively. Overall majority of students choose clinical department as choice about 65% (260/400) and 25% (100/400) were those who wanted to done postgraduation

in oral pathology. 10% (40/400) students shown no interest in doing postgraduation after B.D.S.

#### Table showing %age of male and female involve in the study

	Total number	%age
Male	128(400)	32%
Female	272(400)	68%

#### DISCUSSION

Considering the response to question as to will you do postgraduation agter the completion of graduation,maximum reply was in positive.when they asked about the subject of intrest in doing M.D.S ,the number of students gave a reply towards clinical department as there are more chance of jobs in the clinical branches and the same will help them in building the private practice also.Will you chose oral pathology as a career option in M.D.S,only 25% of students were gave a positive reply to this and maximum students were female who gave the positive reply in chosing oralpathology as a choice This shows the trend of a female dominated professional factor in post graduation in oral pathology nowadays. The reason for the less number of males in post graduate course in oral pathology may be responsible for the fact that males are interested in surgery oriented clinical subjects since beginning of their career. Psychologically speaking, males suffer from superiority complex while they choose clinical subjects in post graduation.<sup>4</sup>

Overall attitude towards the specialty was significantly less among male students as compared to females, which may be due to their delusion about oral pathology as a non- clinical specialty and not including clinical training and so "loss of hands" on dental practice. Other reasons regarding less interest towards oral pathology among male students may be lower income and more dependency on the job as compared to other specialties of dentistry.<sup>5</sup>

#### CONCLUSION

Study showed that maximum undergraduate students are interested in doing post graduation .They are more interested in clinical branches mainly Orthodontics, Endodontics & Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. They preferred these branches as they have more consultation & job opportunities in dental colleges in helpful in day to day practise. During the formative years (BDS);the student should be given chance to get involved into histopathological diagnosis of the lesions be it the simple ones; so that students get acquainted with the histopathological world of diagnosis and develop their keen interest in the same There is also a need to broaden the scope of the specialty and to make it more practical such as laser biopsy/treatment course can be added as super specialty disciplines.

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