



## AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS AS AN OPTION IN REPLACING MISSING TOOTH- A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY (IN BANGALORE)

### Dental Science

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim :** To assess awareness and knowledge among the general population about dental implants as an option in replacing missing teeth.

**Materials and method:** One hundred and fifty two people belonging to various strata among the general population residing in Bangalore city were interviewed through a questionnaire survey. This was a KAP study which included a self explanatory questionnaire consisting of questions based on knowledge, attitude and practice about the use of dental implants as a means to replace missing teeth. The assessment was based on 3 point likert scale.

**Results and conclusion:** The results of this survey showed an acceptable level of awareness about dental implants among a selected sample (n=152) of general population in Bangalore. It also showed the need for providing more general and accurate information to the people about this treatment modality.

### KEYWORDS

Dental implant, missing teeth, awareness, knowledge.

#### INTRODUCTION :

Dental implant is an artificial root that is surgically inserted into the jawbone to support a single tooth replacement, fixed partial, complete denture or maxillofacial prosthesis. Due to its high success rates and predictability, its clinical implication is increasing rapidly.<sup>1</sup>

Since the introduction of dental implants long term clinical studies have confirmed the use as well as efficacy of implant therapy as an option in replacement of missing teeth. Implant treatment is an increasingly popular treatment option with a high success rate. Recently, it has become the focus of the patients' interest hence for dentist, it is vital to assess their level of knowledge with regards to dental implants and whether their perception of dental implants does in fact reflect reality in order to guide patients who do not have the education or background knowledge to make an informed decision between implant supported dentures and removable dentures.<sup>2,5</sup>

Replacement of missing teeth with implant supported prosthesis has been accepted and rated as a positive experience by patients who have undergone implant treatment.<sup>6,7</sup> Many studies have been done in different parts of the world with regards to the awareness of dental implants as a treatment option. An overwhelming majority of patients with severely compromised local host bone can be offered implant-supported rehabilitation with a very good prognosis and improved esthetics, phonetics and function.<sup>7-14</sup>

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS:

In the present survey around 152 people belonging to different strata of the general population staying in Bangalore were surveyed using a self explanatory questionnaire consisting a total of 15 questions based on knowledge, attitude and practice about the use of dental implants as a means to replace missing teeth. The study sample included 75 males and 77 females belonging to age group ranging between 20 to 70 years. They were surveyed when they reported to the dental department for dental treatment.

The questions covered various aspects of awareness about the dental implants including the level of knowledge, source of knowledge, cost, care regime, failure rates, survival and comparison of dental implants

to natural teeth. The patients were also asked whether they intended to know more about dental implants.

#### Assessment was based on 3 point Likert's scale-

- 1- Yes
- 2- No
- 3- Don't know

#### Following are the questions that were included in the self explanatory questionnaire-

SURVEY QUESTIONS	1	2	3
1) Do you know dental implants can be used to replace missing teeth?			
2) If yes, did you come to know about dental implants through a dentist?			
3) Are you interested in knowing more about dental implants?			
4) Have you asked your dentist about dental implants?			
5) Do you know whether the dentist you visit uses dental implants?			
6) Implant is made up of metal.			
7) Will high cost prevent you from choosing dental implant for treatment?			
8) Do you think special dental care is necessary for dental implants?			
9) Dental implant is placed in jaw bone.			
10) Dental implant can fail due to patient's negligence.			
11) Dental implants need more care than natural teeth.			
12) Do you think a specialist should insert the implant for you?			
13) Do you think implant is the best replacement modality for a missing tooth?			
14) Do you think an implant lasts life long?			
15) Do you think implant can be placed for any patient?			

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:**

The results of this survey showed an acceptable level of awareness about dental implants among a selected sample (n=152) of general population in Bangalore. Around 78% of the individuals are aware that dental implants can be used as a replacement option for missing teeth. It also showed the need for providing more general and accurate information to the people about this treatment modality.

**Table 1. Demographic data**

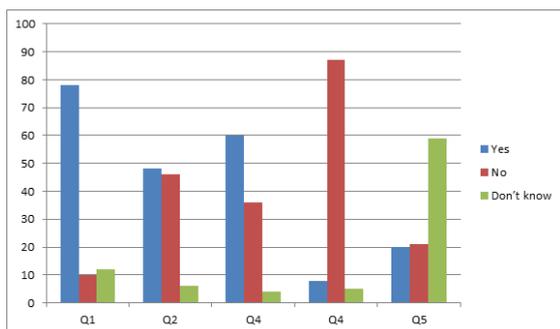
A total of 152 subjects were surveyed which included 75 males and 77 females. The mean age of the subjects surveyed was 33.47 years.

N	Mean Age	SD	Median	Min.	Max.
152	33.47	10.067	31.00	20	74

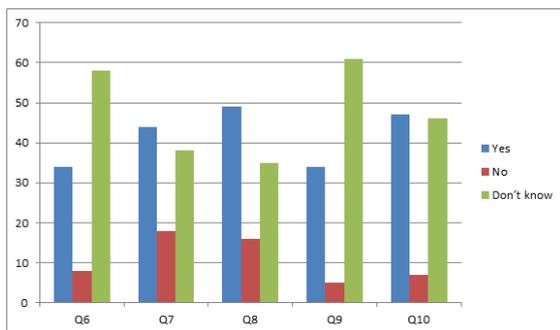
  

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	75	49.3
Female	77	50.7
Total	152	100.0

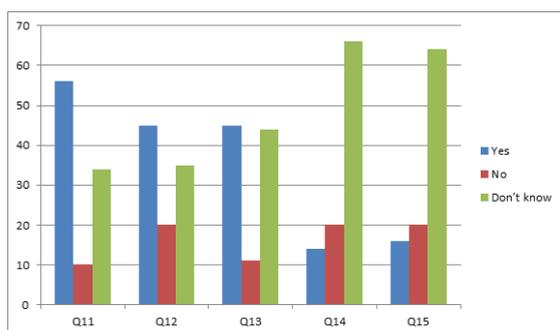
**Graph 1. Knowledge based questions**



**Graph 2. Attitude based questions**



**Graph 3. Practice based questions**



The present survey gives information about subject's knowledge and their need for more information related to dental implants as an option for replacing missing teeth in a selected sample of dental patients belonging to different strata in Bangalore. This specific sample was selected to ease access and increase response rate as they were dental patients who were approached during their regular dental visits. The age distribution was chosen randomly.

The subjective level of information about dental implants varied but around 78% of the subjects knew that dental implants can be used to replace missing teeth. This is not different significantly in comparison

to the results reported by Zimmer et al (1992).

This survey showed that 48% of the subject came to know about dental implants by the dentists they were visiting. Almost 60% of the subject questioned in this survey, were interested in gaining more information about dental implants.

44% of the subject questioned in this survey agreed that high cost of the treatment of missing teeth by dental implants will prevent them from utilizing this treatment modality.

Despite of showing comparatively high level of knowledge and awareness about dental implants, only 33% of the subject questioned knew that dental implants are placed within the jaw bone which reveals incomplete or incorrect information about dental implants among the sample subject.

44% of the subject questioned agreed that placing dental implant for replacement of missing teeth is the best treatment modality for same. This shows that there is a need to increase awareness about various treatment options for replacing missing teeth as well as provide them knowledge about efficacy of each treatment. Only 13% of subjects agreed that implants may last lifelong. This emphasizes on the need to make people aware about the survival and success rates of this treatment modality.

**CONCLUSION:**

The result of this survey emphasizes on the need to provide correct, accurate and detailed information about efficacy, success and survival of dental implants as a replacement option for missing teeth. Majority of the questioned subjects were aware about use of dental implants as a treatment option for missing teeth but it is also needed to increase awareness about all the treatment modalities for missing teeth and elaborate the advantages of dental implant as a treatment option. As dentists were the main sources of information regarding dental implants, further efforts should be made by them and the governing bodies to take necessary steps for creating awareness amongst the people. Most of the patients found dental implants treatment to be expensive and unaffordable so efforts should be made to reduce the cost of dental implants to a more affordable rate.

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