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Original Article

Awareness Regarding Implant among Dental Undergraduate Students: A Survey

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ABSTRACT:

Dental implants has become an upcoming trend these days. People are getting diverted towards the implant treatment due to its improved esthetics, improved functional phonetics, and longevity of the prosthesis. But in this developing world everything demands acceptance and acceptance comes through results. Awareness is the initiation for achieving good results and this branch of dentistry is still under coverage if being aware among the common population and dental students too. Dental undergraduate students are the future dentists who can impart this knowledge in a much better and convenient way.

Key words: Dental implants, esthetics, prosthesis.

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INTRODUCTION

As we know about the awareness of the dental implants is becoming a subject of talk these days everywhere. Apart from the commoners, this awareness of dental implants is foremost important to the dental students because this can help eliminating any negative reflection of the procedure that may have caused due to lack of adequate knowledge and communication.^{1,2}

Budding dentists hold the prime responsibility to make the common people aware of the benefits, protocol, procedure and predictability of the implant treatment.

Implants are the most acceptable treatment these days, therefore students should aim more and more to make people aware about implants.^{3,4} Source of information plays an important role in level of awareness of dental implants which can be provided by various means and may help promote implant therapy as a predictable treatment option. For clinicians it becomes a subject of concern whether the patient holds knowledge about the treatment or not.

As India is still considered as developing country with people having low levels of knowledge and awareness regarding dental implants, there is paucity of information regarding the awareness of patients about dental implants in this country.

Considering this a study was conducted with an aim to access the sources, level of awareness and need for information about dental implants among undergraduate students at Luxmi Bai Institute of Dental Sciences, Patiala.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON DENTAL IMPLANTS (SURVEY)

1. Do you have any missing teeth?

- a. Yes
- b. No

2. Do you think missing teeth should be replaced?

- a. Yes
- b. No

3. What alternatives for replacing teeth do you prefer?

- a. Removable
- b. Fixed

4. If fixed, then

- a. Bridge
- b. Implant

5. Do you have any knowledge of dental implants?

- a. Yes
- b. No

6. If yes, then from where do you get to know about dental implants?

- a. Media
- b. Lectures
- c. Books
- d. Others

7. Do you think dental implants are the best option for replacing missing teeth?

- a. Yes
- b. No

8. Do you think people should opt for dental implants for replacement of missing teeth?

- a. Yes
- b. No

9. Have you ever got any dental implant done?

- a. Yes
- b. No

10. What are the reasons for opting dental implant?

- a. Esthetics
- b. Function
- c. Avoidance of damaging adjacent teeth
- d. others

11. Are you interested in undergoing dental implant treatment?
 a. Yes b. No

12. Are you aware of dental implant therapy as an alternative for missing teeth?
 a. Yes b. No

13. What are the reasons for not seeking dental implants as a treatment option?
 a. Cost b. Duration c. Fear of Surgery d. Lack of Awareness

14. Do you think the dental implant treatment is economical?
 a. Yes b. No

15. Up to which amount are you prepared to pay as the treatment charges for dental implants?
 a. Rs.5000 b. Rs.7000 c. Rs.15000 d. No idea

16. Do you have knowledge of dental implant placement procedure?
 a. Yes b. No

17. Are you well informed about dental implants?
 a. Yes b. No

18. Do you think systemic health is important when considering dental implant therapy?
 a. Yes b. No c. Do not know

19. Do you think that care of dental implants is the same as that of natural teeth?
 a. Yes b. No

20. What could be the possible factors behind the failure of dental implants?
 a. Poor oral hygiene b. Infection
 c. Improper placement d. Others

21. What according to you is the functional life of dental implant (in years)?
 a. <10 years b. 10-20 years c. No idea

22. Do you think dental implant should be one of the main subject in your academic curriculum?
 a. Yes b. No

RESULTS-

Out of 236 students being surveyed, 41 (17.3%) were males and 195 (82.6%) were females. The study subjects aged 18-25 was selected. 39.4% were in the age group of 18-20 years, 50.4% were in the age group of 21-23 years and rest 10.2% were in the age group of 23-25 years. Out of 236 students who were surveyed 28 (11.8%) were first year students, 46 (19.4%) were second year students, 56 (23.72%) were third year students, 72 (30.50%) were final year students and remaining 34(14.4%) were interns.

Results according to the analysis of questionnaire-

After collecting answers of the questionnaire Student t Test was applied to the figures and following results were obtained: Amongst the 236 subjects who were questioned, 12.4% preferred removable prosthesis as an alternative for

replacing teeth and majority of them i.e. 87.6% preferred fixed prosthesis over removable prosthesis.

About 37.1% of the students had awareness or information about it from media, 2.9% had from books and remaining 60% had awareness about dental implants from other sources of information.

None of the students have ever got any dental implant done.

Concerning the reasons for opting dental implants, 52.4% of the subjects would like to undergo dental implant treatment because of its function, 8.6% because of esthetics, 5.7% because of avoidance of any damage to the adjacent teeth and rest 33.3% considered other reasons for opting dental implants.

Nearly 40.8% of the students were not ready for seeking dental implants as a treatment option because of lack of awareness, 22.4% were not prepared for treatment because of fear of surgery, 18.1% because of cost of dental implants and remaining 4.8% because of long duration of treatment.

Majority of the students i.e. 89.5% didn't consider the dental implant treatment as a economical treatment while the remaining 10.5% consider it as a economical treatment.

Out of 236 students being surveyed, 57.3% of them had no idea about treatment charges of dental implants while 45.8% were prepared to pay Rs.15000 and about 1.9% were prepared to pay Rs.7000.

DISCUSSION-

Dental implants have changed the face of dentistry over the last 25 decades. They have been increasingly used to replace missing teeth. Now a days dental implants have become the focus of patients' interest as a treatment modality. Conventional fixed bridges may no longer offer the best solution. In the past decade the popularity of implant dentistry has grown rapidly all over the world.

A survey was conducted among the undergraduate dental students concerning the awareness about dental implants as a treatment for replacing missing teeth. A simple questionnaire was made and filled by the dental students. The specific group was selected for easy accessibility and to increase the response rate. The age distribution was chosen randomly.

The present survey gives information about subjects' knowledge and their need for more information related to dental implants as an option in replacing missing teeth.

As displayed in the results, 88.6% of students felt that fixed prosthesis are better than removable prosthesis. This result was similar to that concluded by Tepper et al and Zimmer et al that fixed prosthesis is more attractive esthetically than the removable prosthesis. Whereas 11.4% of subjects preferred removable prosthesis over the fixed prosthesis. This finding differed significantly from that concluded by Suliema Al-Johany where only 3.3% of the subjects chose removable prosthesis over fixed prosthesis.

This study shows that 52.4% of the students are willing to undergo dental implant treatment because of its function, 8.6% because of esthetics and 5.7% would like to undergo dental implant treatment because of avoidance to the

adjacent teeth and rest 33.3% considered other reasons. Therefore, it can be concluded from this study that majority of the students prefer dental implants because of their function like natural teeth.

Amongst 236 students, 44.8% were not ready for dental implant treatment because of lack of awareness, 32.4% were not prepared because of fear of surgery and 18.1% considered this treatment to be very costly and remaining 4.8% because of long duration of treatment. The study done by Pragati K reported different results which showed that only 29% of the subjects were willing to use dental implants as a treatment modality whereas 56% were not interested to undergo this procedure because most of the subjects i.e. 61.6% found dental implant treatment to be costly. A study by Palmquist et al demonstrated that patients could be restricted more by financial condition. From these studies it can be concluded that the cost of dental implants is the main reason for not opting dental implants as a treatment option.

In the given study it can be concluded that majority of the students (89.5%) didn't consider this treatment as an economical treatment. It means the cost of implant is a major argument against implant therapy. Study done by J. Rustemeyer et al showed that 23% of subjects were prepared to make an additional payment of upto 2000 euro. In the present study, 44.8% of the subjects were prepared to pay Rs.15000 as an additional payment for implants whereas 1.9% were prepared to pay Rs.7000 and the remaining students (53.3%) had no idea about the treatment charges. Thus the result shows statistical significant differences amongst the level of education. This study shows that 37.1% students learnt about dental implants from electronic media i.e. internet, television etc. which is in contrast with the studies of Berge (2000) and Best (1993) which showed that the media was the main source of information. But it is in distinction to the other studies. Kaurani P et al reported dentist to be the focal source of information. In 1992, Zimmer recorded that only 17% of the subjects were cited dentist as a source of information. Majority of the students have no idea about potential causes of implant failure while 20% believed that the reason behind the failure of dental implants is poor oral hygiene while 12.4% considered infection behind the failure of dental implants. Implant losses were blamed on the poor quality of treatment provided by 15.2%, similar to Al Johany et al's study but contradicts other studies where 47% and 53% blamed dentists for such a failure.

CONCLUSION:

From the study /survey conducted among the 236 undergraduate dental students concerning the awareness about dental implant shows that fixed prosthesis are better than the removable while rest are against the implant. The main factors for denying the implant treatment was the cost factor i.e. this procedure is not economical, and fear for surgery. From 236 students 44.8% were not ready for dental treatment because of lack of awareness.

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