

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

AWARENESS OF DENTAL IMPLANTS- A KEY OF ACCEPTANCE OF TREATMENT MODALITY

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ABSTRACT:

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to investigate the awareness about dental implants among educated population. **Material and Method:** A descriptive study was conducted with a sample of 40 subjects from the patients coming to the institution over a period of 3 months and they were grouped according to their education level. All patients completed an informed consent form. **Result:** it was found that 40% of the subjects were aware of dental implants in those 40% only 5% had undergone implant procedure. Around 5% of the participants had seen implants in their friends and family members or any other person and 25% were aware about implants through their dentists and 5% were knowing about implants through media. **Conclusion:** It concludes that most of the subjects found implants treatment to be expensive and unaffordable one of the major factor against the willingness of patients to undergo this treatment.

Key words- Implants ,awareness, prosthesis, osseointegration

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INTRODUCTION-

Dental implantology was not considered as a speciality branch but now a days it is fast becoming a speciality in the field of dentistry. A dental implant (also known as an endosseous implant or fixture) is a surgical component that interfaces with the bone of the jaw or skull to support a dental prosthesis such as a crown, bridge, denture, facial prosthesis or to act as an orthodontic anchor. With dental implants, missing teeth can now be replaced with stable, comfortable and natural-looking and feeling artificial replacements. However, inspite of the obvious rapid advancement in the technology of these prostheses, there are problems that are still associated with their use Success or failure of implants depends on the health of the person receiving it, drugs which affect the chances of osseointegration and the health of the tissues in the mouth. Some of these problems often make the patients ask for treatment alternatives to dentures and bridges which would not expose them to the above uncomfortable challenges¹. A careful assessment of certain criteria will disclose that the discipline of implant dentistry has indeed matured

tremendously in the past two decades². An informal meeting in the fall of 2003 took place at New York University School of Dentistry to discuss what could be done to increase the number of patients being treated with dental implants. All members agreed that, although there is a large number of patients who would benefit from implant therapy, particularly patients who are edentulous, few actually receive implants and implant prosthodontics. Out of this preliminary meeting came the concept that increasing the hands-on implant dentistry knowledge imparted to dental students would increase the number of patients benefiting from dental implants. It was felt that if a student did not perform clinical implant care on a live patient, he or she was less likely to perform that care in practice. The dental literature indicates that there is a strong correlation for recent graduates between offering and restoring implants in their practice when an implant course was taken as part of their dental school curriculum^{3,4}.

MATERIAL AND METHODS-

A questionnaire based survey was conducted over a time period of 3 months to access the level of awareness

regarding dental implants among patients coming into the institution. Total 40 patients were selected and they were grouped according to their education level. The level of education was grouped as- upto secondary education, graduation level and post graduation level and a written consent form was obtained from all the participants. On

these basis which was established as a inclusion criterias participants were given a questionnaire and the survey was conducted. The format of the questionnaire was written in simple English which was easy to understand and respond. Before onset of the survey, an ethical permission was taken from the ethical committee of the Institute.

FORMAT OF QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME-

AGE-

SEX-

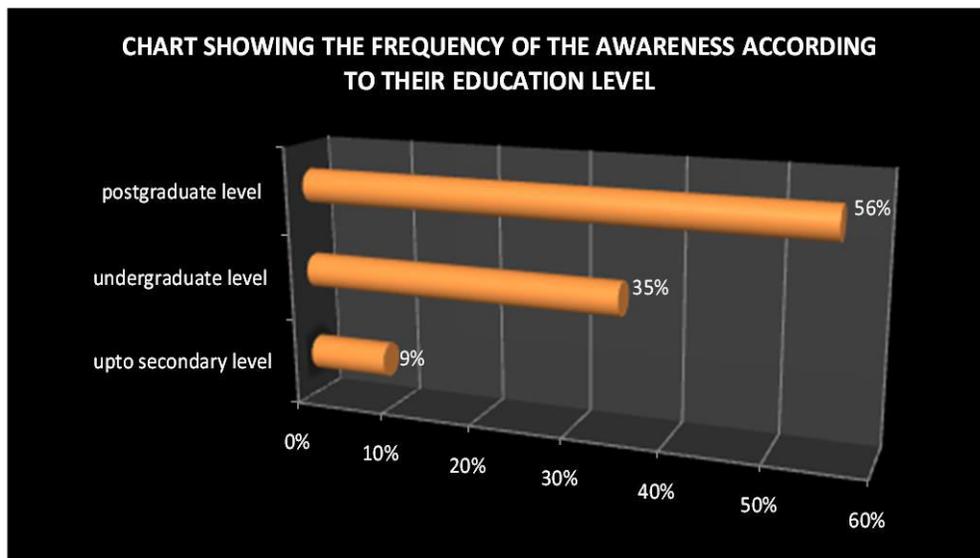
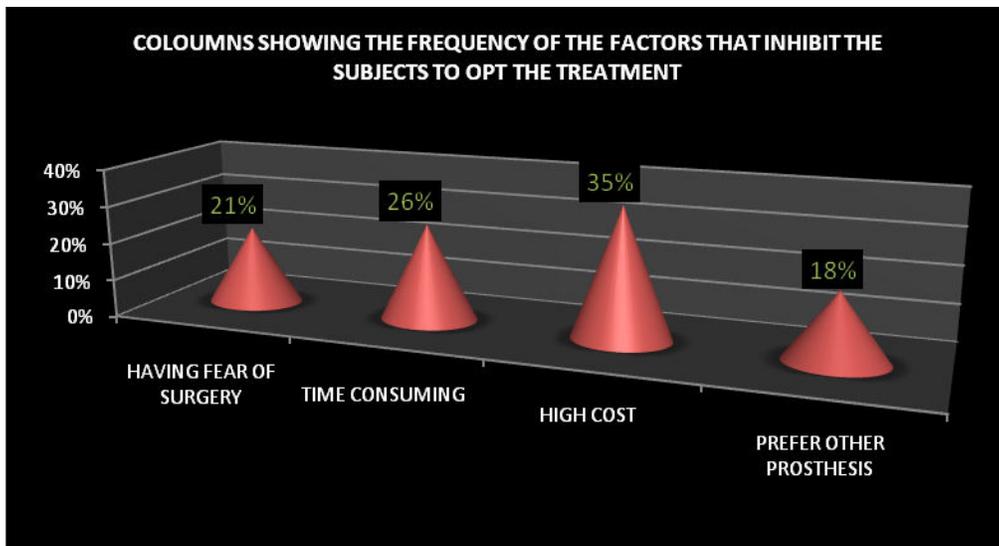
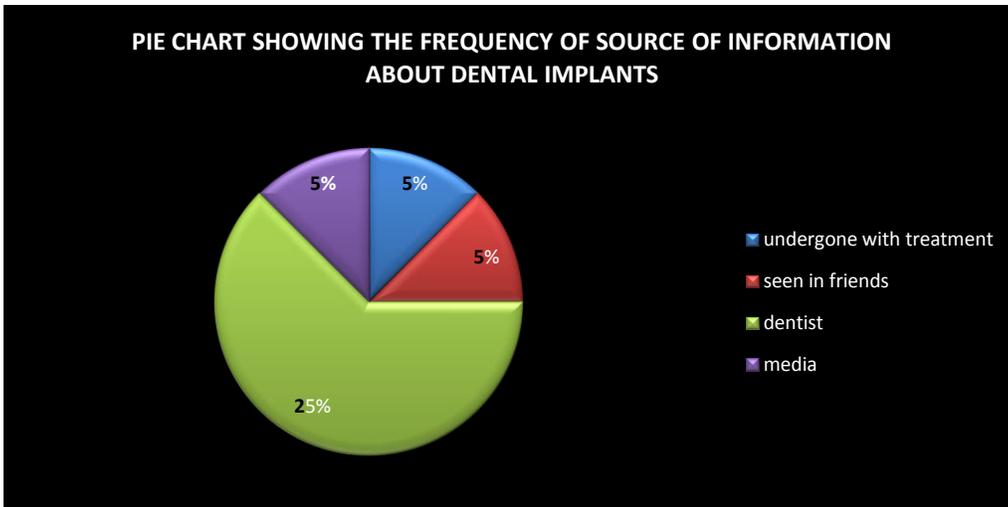
EDUCATION LEVEL-

S.NO.	QUESTIONS	RESPONSE
1	HAVE YOU HEARD THAT NATURAL TEETH CAN BE REPLACED WITH NATURAL LOOKING ARTIFICIAL TEETH	YES/NO
2	WHAT IS THE REASON FOR YOUR MISSING TEETH	A-DENTAL CARIES B- PERIODONTITIS C- OTHERS .
3	HOW YOU PREFER TO REPLACE YOUR MISSING TEETH	A- REMOVABLE PROSTHESIS B- FIXED PROSTHESIS
4	HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS	YES/NO
5	HAVE YOU UNDERGONE THIS TREATMENT	YES/NO
5	From where you got to know about dental implants	a- From dentists b- From relatives and friends c- Media d- Others
6	Will you ever go for this	Yes/no
7	If you are not willing for the treatment, what are the reasons behind this	a- You are having fear for the treatment b- Due to its cost c- Time consuming d- Others

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS- The Statistical software namely SPSS version 17.0 was used for the analysis of the data.

RESULTS

A total of 40 subjects were surveyed and the willing participants were assorted according to their level of education. In the present study, it was found that 40% of the subjects were aware of dental implants in those 40% only 5% had undergone implant procedure. Around 5% of the participants had seen implants in their friends and family members or any other person and 25% were aware about implants through their dentists and 5% were knowing about implants through media. Overall more than 50% were interested in getting knowledge regarding dental implant treatment and only 10% were willing to undergo implant treatment. According to the sources of obtaining information regarding implants, dental professionals were the main source of information followed by media like newspaper, TV etc, friends and family members, and others . When it was asked regarding problems faced by the participants regarding implant surgery; high frequency of the population were not taking it due to its higher cost (35%). (21%) were having fear of implant surgery. Some people have different priorities like other prosthesis (18%). Some mentioned that it is time consuming (26%). Similarly regarding education level, the graduate(35%) and postgraduates(56%) were more aware than people having education upto secondary level(9%) . A significant increase in awareness was seen with people having postgraduate education level.



DISCUSSION

Dental implant procedure has been at the forefront of clinical practice over a decade and a half now. With increasing success rate of implant treatment more patients are opting for dental implants as premier choice for replacement of missing teeth.⁵ Around one million dental implants are inserted each year, worldwide.⁶ However information which is available to the patients regarding the procedure and its success, is often fragmentary. This problem is more compounded in developing nations. This survey noticed that 40% of the subjects were aware of dental implants. However the findings were lower than studies conducted by Zimmer et al,⁵ Berge,⁷ and Tepper et al,⁸ which reported the level of awareness as 77%, 70.1% and 72%, respectively. This might be due to low socioeconomic status and low education level among the study population. Whereas Chowdhary R et al⁹ had shown lower results among Indian population in 2010. Regarding the source of information our results were similar to study done by Johany SA¹⁰ et al, (2010) which also stated that most of the people get aware about implants by the dental professionals. However studies conducted by Zimmer et al,⁵ showed that media was found to be the main source of information about dental implants, while the dentists were the source for such information in not more than 17% of the cases. Similarly Berge⁷ and Best¹¹ also observed media as the first source followed by dentists. Akagawa et al,¹² in their study concluded that, dentists provided not more than 20% of the information. When questions were asked regarding hindrances of implant treatment, most of subjects reported that they do not go for implants because they cannot afford. Others were having fear of the word surgery and some answered that they have to come for number of visits for this treatment. Similarly many studies found that high cost is the main constraint as Kaurani P et al,¹³ Tepper et al,⁸ Kent.¹⁴ The high costs of the treatment indicated that there was a need for dental insurance to cover this procedure for better option among the patients in developing countries. When the data was compared according to educational qualification of the people, it was found that all the values raised from illiteracy to graduation level. These findings were similar to study conducted by Hasnain F et al,¹⁵ In general, the higher education group had better knowledge and attitude than lower education group level.

CONCLUSION-

Most of the subjects found implant treatment expensive and unaffordable which was one of the major issue against the willingness of patients to undergo this treatment. But still they were interested to know implants. Awareness among the

participants was less than fifty percent and dentists were the main sources of information according to this study. But still they were interested to know implants. Awareness among the participants was less than fifty percent and dentists were the main sources of information. It also showed the need for providing more information to the patients about this treatment modality. So, proper dental education is necessary for developing positive attitude among population regarding dental implants.

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