

Knowledge of Patients toward Dental Implants in Karnataka, India

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge of the patients regarding implant-retained prosthesis as an option for tooth replacement amongst patients in Karnataka, India.

Materials and methods: Information on demographic characteristics, knowledge about implant as an option for missing tooth replacement, source of information, and knowledge about other options of tooth replacement were obtained from patients visiting various dental outpatient departments of hospital and private dental clinics using nationwide self-explanatory survey.

Results: Amongst the 500 responses retrieved, 56% of patients felt poorly well-informed about the dental implant treatment. The dentists were the main source of information regarding dental implant treatment modality followed by friends and electronic media.

Conclusion: Necessary efforts and measures should be made to raise the knowledge of dental implant treatment among patients.

Keywords: Dental implants, Knowledge, Patients.

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INTRODUCTION

The loss of natural teeth is a health problem, i.e., associated with functional, cosmetic and psychological morbidities since antiquity.¹ Prosthetic treatment differs widely depending on a number of factors. For example, it may involve the replacement of few missing teeth in a healthy but incomplete dentition, the functional replacement of nearly all teeth in a badly damaged dentition, or restoring

function by means of removable or fixed partial dentures, implants, complete dentures, or overdentures. The traditional approach in prosthetic dentistry resulted in uniform and extensive treatments based on the principle that missing teeth should always be replaced.² Fortunately, restoration of missing teeth with dental implants offers far-reaching solution to the problems.³ Dental implants are stronger, functionally effective and more durable than bridges and dentures.⁴ Dental implant is an artificial root, i.e., surgically inserted into the jawbone to support a single tooth replacement, fixed partial, complete denture or maxillofacial prosthesis. It has become increasingly important^{5,6} as majority of patients treated with implant-supported prosthesis have reported improvement in their quality of life, assurance, self-confidence⁷ including psychological benefits and moreover conservation of the tooth structure adjacent to the teeth to be replaced.⁸ Due to its high success rates and predictability, its clinical implication is increasing rapidly.⁹ The perspective and outlook of the population towards dental implants are less known.¹⁰ The aim of the study was to assess the knowledge of the patients regarding implant-retained prosthesis as an option for tooth replacement.

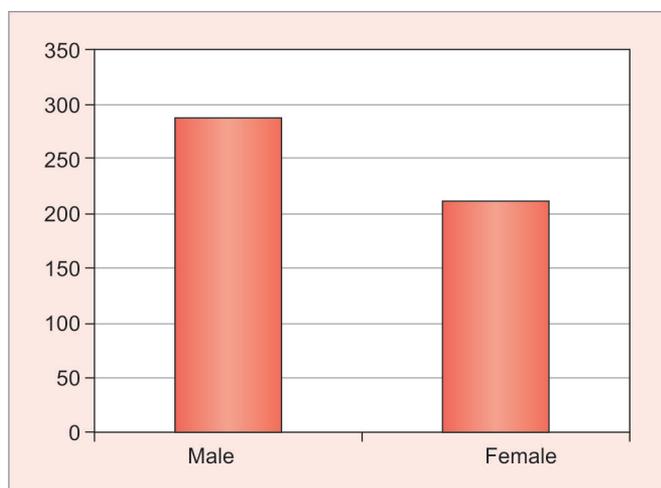
MATERIALS AND METHODS

A survey was conducted through printed questionnaire composing of multiple questions with the intention of evaluating dental implant knowledge among the population of Ballary (Karnataka, India) in 2016 (May-December). A random sampling method with convenient sample size was used. Questionnaire was prepared in both English and Kannada to facilitate completion and to get better understanding of the questions by the respondents. Most of the hospitals with a dental outpatient department and private dental clinics were included in the study. The questionnaires were handed to the patients during their regular dental visits. All the respondents were informed about the aims and objectives of the study. Those who were not willing to give informed consent were excluded from the study. So, only 500 respondents agreed to participate in the survey. The survey form included self-explanatory questions which were in correspondence to previous studies conducted by Kohli et al,¹⁰ Chowdhary et al,¹¹ and Berge et al.¹²

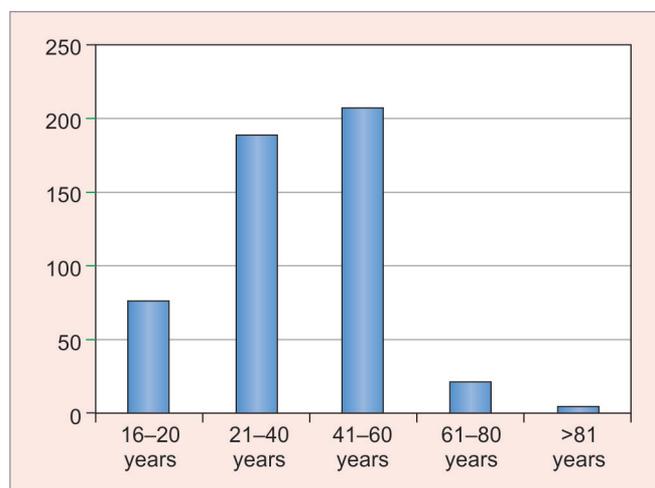
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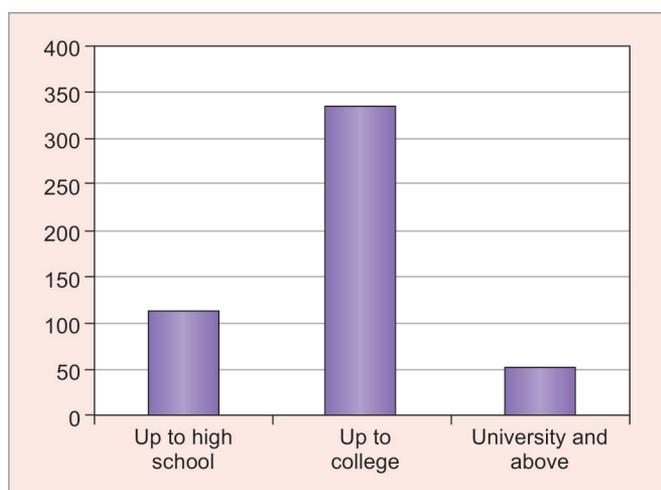
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Graph 1: Demographic profile of the respondents according to gender



Graph 2: Demographic profile of the respondents according to age



Graph 3: Demographic profile of the respondents according to education

RESULTS

Graphs 1 to 3, depict the characteristics of all the respondents based on their gender, age, and education levels. Based on the 500 responses retrieved, only 5% of the respondents had undergone dental implant treatment before. Respondents with age group of 21 to 40 years were most well-informed regarding dental implants. Among the 500 respondents, 13% were well-informed, 31% moderately well-informed, and 56% poorly informed regarding different alternatives for replacing missing teeth. No one was poorly or well-informed. Most were aware of complete dentures (45%), followed by partial dentures (39%) and implant-supported denture (11%) and as an alternative for the replacement of missing teeth. About 5% respondents were not aware of any alternatives given. Most of them stated their obtained knowledge on dental implant from dentist (78%) followed by friend, relatives, Internet, magazine, and newspapers as the various source of information regarding dental implants.

DISCUSSION

Replacement of missing teeth by means of implant-supported prosthesis for esthetic and functional rehabilitation has turned out to be an established and extensively used treatment modality in dentistry. Among the 500 respondents in this study, majority of those who had heard of dental implants were among the age group of 21 to 40 years and with the education of university level or higher similar to study done by Kohli et al.¹⁰ This can be attributed to the increased interest in dental treatment amongst the younger generation and changing attitudes toward the advancements in medical and dental technology.^{10,11} Factors, such as high level of education coupled with a reasonably higher income and age can influence the findings of this research.¹⁰ In this study, 56% of the respondents were poorly informed regarding the different sources of information about alternatives for replacement of missing teeth. Thus, it is critical to inform patients about dental implant and upgrade the awareness of such advanced treatment modalities in the society. Around 78% of the respondents stated their dentist as their source of hearing about dental implants followed by relatives and friends, Internet, someone who has received an implant, newspapers, or magazines. This is in agreement with Kohli et al,¹⁰ Chowdhary et al,¹¹ Pommer et al,⁵ Satpathy et al,¹³ Mukatash et al,¹⁴ and Kumar et al,¹⁵ all of which stated dentists as the main source of information. Thus, it is important to promote dental implant treatment, most importantly by means of effective communication between patients and their dentists and other options, such as highlighting the usage of dental implants in health-related articles in newspapers or health magazines.¹⁶ As dentist were found to be the major source of information, dental education must include suitable implantology courses to provide appropriate and realistic implant knowledge. As high cost was the main reason

not to choose implant therapy, it is vital to highlight the patients that quality of life overshadows high cost of implants. The benefits and drawbacks of different types of treatment modalities should be properly explained so that they can make a learned choice.¹⁰

CONCLUSION

Implant dentistry has evolved into the mainstream of restorative practices all over the world. 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. Necessary efforts and measures should be made to raise the knowledge of dental implant treatment among patients.

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