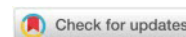


PATIENT'S AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND PERCEPTION OF CONVENTIONAL CONSTRUCTIONS AND IMPLANT SUPPORTED PROSTHESES

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Abstract: Tooth loss could be due to many reasons and it would ultimately affect the patient's well-being and self-esteem. With increasing age and depending on the patient's oral hygiene as well as possibly being involved in different traumatic experiences and injuries, increasing level of prosthetic treatment is also established. Before undergoing any kind of prosthetic treatment when mouth rehabilitation dental patients need to make an informed decision on the way the treatment plan would be carried out the best possible way for them according to their expectations. The aim of the present study is to assess the awareness, understanding and perception of tooth supported and implant supported prostheses among dental patients when making their selection. A systematic review of the scientific literature on the topic published in the period from 2015 to 2025 was conducted, including articles from the databases PubMed, Web of Science (WoS), Scopus, Wiley. Keywords which were used for the purposes of scientific research are: "patient awareness", "dental implants", "prosthetic constructions", "conventional methods". The results of this scientific study show that one of the major factors influencing the choice between tooth-supported and implant-supported prosthetic treatment is financial constraint. A solid percentage of dental patients would turn to implant supported constructions after understanding the benefits from this kind of therapy. Education towards the direction of patient's awareness and understanding the divergence between implant and conventional treatment needs to be carried out in order for them to make the right informed decision.

Keywords: patient awareness, dental implants, prosthetic constructions, conventional methods

Field: Medical Sciences and Health

1. INTRODUCTION

Tooth loss could be due to many reasons and it would ultimately affect the patient's well-being and self-esteem. It is usually caused by severe caries lesions, localized or generalized periodontitis, periapical diseases, fractures, orthodontic problems, impacted teeth. (Broers DLM et al. 2021) (Suzuki S et al. 2022) In time depending on the case different patient discomforts such as reduced alveolar ridge as well as shortened prosthesis-bearing area, diminished masticatory efficiency and facial profile alteration can occur. This is going to have a negative impact on patient's self-image and enjoying social activities. With increasing age and depending on the patient's oral hygiene as well as possibly being involved in different traumatic experiences and injuries, increasing level of prosthetic treatment is also established. (Warreth et al. 2013) Having a long lasting dental problem and thinking of making a dental appointment when this issue becomes even more severe or just postponing the dental visit is something the dentist need to consider when constructing the treatment plan for the patient. (Nevins et al. 2009) The patients usually have higher expectations when the area of interest is in the esthetic zone or is related to smile function and satisfaction. If the clinician presents different treatment options the patients knowledge and awareness on these issues plays an important role on the final treatment decision. (Shenoy et al. 2023) The aim of the scientific research is to investigate the awareness, understanding and perception on the topic of tooth supported and implant supported prostheses among dental patients when making their selection.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A systematic review of the scientific literature on the topic published in the period from 2015 to 2025 was conducted, including articles from the databases PubMed, Web of Science (WoS), Scopus, Wiley. Keywords which were used for the purposes of scientific research are: "patient awareness", "dental implants", "prosthetic constructions", "conventional methods".

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3. RESULTS

Dental implants have become an established treatment modality for the rehabilitation of partially and completely edentulous patients, providing enhanced prosthetic retention, stability, and masticatory function. These benefits can contribute to improved oral health-related quality of life and favorable long-term clinical outcomes. The implants are osseointegrated in the bone (mandibula or maxilla) for set period of time after being placed. The duration usually depends on the surface of the implant and the state of the extraction or placement site. The construction on top of the implants could be fixed right after.

The patients can also choose the conventional methods option where a fixed partial dentures such as crowns and bridges could be used or removable dentures where they better fit the purpose. Some patients tend to understand that choosing implants as an option has the advantage of adjacent teeth not needing to be prepared, even though most have concerns about the financial part, not willing to undergo the surgery and then waiting during healing time, leading to prolonged treatment time. (Shenoy et al. 2023) (Rustemeyer et al. 2007)

Before undergoing any kind of prosthetic treatment when mouth rehabilitation dental patients need to make an informed decision on the way the treatment plan would be carried out the best possible way for them according to their expectations.

4. DISCUSSIONS

Al-Fareh et al. (2023) in their scientific research describes a face to face interview questionnaire and clinical examination to better understand the patient's perception and awareness about the topic. More than half of their participants are in unison with one another that missing teeth examined clinically should be replaced by one form or another. Nearly 80% of their participants pointed out dental caries as a primary reason for already missing teeth. Trauma and periodontitis as secondary and tertiary reasons respectively. More than 2/3 of the participants have shown no knowledge of implant supported prosthesis and the ones that did weren't exactly sure of the procedure. More than half of the participants expressed concerns that cost would be very high. Less than 10% though were of the mindset that the procedure of implant placement would be complicated and difficult to perform. Almost all the individuals agreed that implant supported prostheses are useful. More than 80% were willing to learn more about constructions over implants. Most of females in comparison to males considered the implant insertion and the healing period as painful. 65% of all the participants already had a fixed construction in their oral cavity, but around that same number of participants hoped to receive an implant fixed prosthesis after learning the benefits of it. Only a few numbers of participants showed the willingness to accept removable construction.

Al-Haj Husain et al. (2023) have conducted another similar scientific study in a Swiss University based on patient's knowledge, awareness and attitudes towards dental implants. The dentists were appointed as a primary source of information on the topic. A self-explanatory online questionnaire was used in this particular study. Around 42% of the participants had one dental appointment per year, while 38 % only visited dentist when emergencies. In this study around 78% of participants demonstrated awareness of dental implants as treatment solution, with 64% reporting a high level of perceived knowledge, considering themselves to be well informed about the topic. Dental implants were primarily preferred option with bridges and crowns following right after. 45% of the participants were willing to be charged with higher cost in order to have the implants placed by certified professionals. Around half of the participants had high esthetic expectations and were of the mindset that the implants would last around 10-20 years.

According to scientific research that Krupińska AM et al. (2023) made at Wroclaw Medical University, Poland 75% of the participants were aware of dental implants as a treatment option but only 40% understood the mechanics and the procedures behind it. Internet was the primary source of information but the high cost were very concerning for the patients.

In another scientific study that Ho K et al. (2022) have conducted in Japan patients believed that the purpose of dental implants was to avoid dentures and improve chewing function. Cost and longevity were primary concerns. They also expressed limited knowledge about bone grafts.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The results of this scientific study show that one of the major factors influencing the choice between tooth-supported and implant-supported prosthetic treatment is financial constraint. A solid percentage of dental patients would turn to implant supported constructions after understanding the benefits from this kind of therapy. Education towards the direction of patient's awareness and understanding the divergence between implant and conventional treatment needs to be carried out in order for them to make the right informed decision.

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