

AWARENESS AND ATTITUDES OF PATIENTS TOWARDS PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION OF MISSING TEETH AT SAVEETHA DENTAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL

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Abstract

Aim: This study is done to evaluate the awareness and attitude each patient have towards dental prosthesis for rehabilitation of missing teeth.

Objective: to evaluate the awareness and attitude each patient have towards dental prosthesis for rehabilitation of missing teeth

Background/ Reason: There is a wide spread presence of edentulousness in patient reporting to saveetha dental college and hospital. These patients being poorly informed about the treatment plans available for rehabilitation of missing teeth lead towards this study and their chief complaint does not require replacements. Knowing their awareness helps us in planning and formulating short dental awareness module to the patient. The evaluation is done by compiling a questionnaire which was distributed to patients reporting to Saveetha dental college and hospital

Introduction

The face is widely regarded as a symbol of “self” and a smile as a window into one's personality (1). In this Teeth play a significant role in maintenance of a healthy personality and self-image (2). Tooth loss is psychologically upsetting experience, and is considered to be a serious event in the life of a person, requiring significant psychological readjustment (3). Patients may suffer real or perceived detrimental effects following the loss of one or more teeth which substantially reduce the quality of life affecting them emotionally, socially, physically and psychologically (4). The nonacceptance of edentulousness and the individual's feelings about dentures, which have been the traditional way of replacing missing teeth, are important for the acceptance of new dentures (5). Traditionally, missing teeth are replaced by removable partial dentures, fixed partial dentures and complete dentures (6). Requirements such as esthetics and functional comfort are considered more important and more easily achieved with dental implants (7). Patient's perception plays a major role in decision for replacement of posterior teeth, and cosmetic dental treatment (16).

Material and method

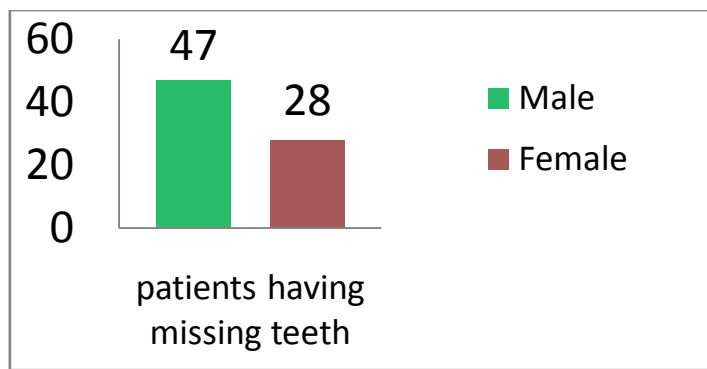
A descriptive cross sectional study was done patients attending saveetha dental college regarding their knowledge and awareness on replacement of missing teeth. The survey consisted of a self-administered questionnaire given to patients aged 20 years or older. The questionnaire comprised of 14 questions. Questions were regarding missing teeth and replacement techniques.

Results

A patient population of 100 participated in the study of which 60 were male and 40 were females which corresponds to 60 % of the study population as males and 40 % as females. The average age of the study group was 38.3 years with 23 years and 60 years of age being the youngest and oldest patients.

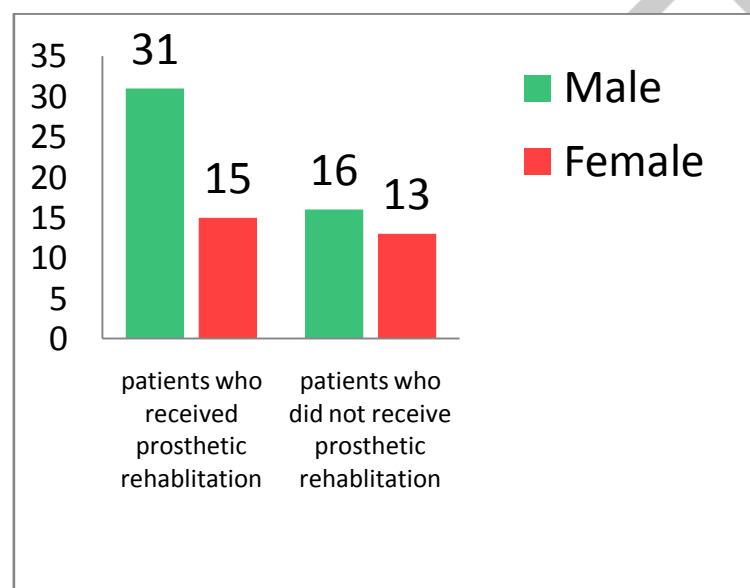
Patients having missing teeth

In this survey of 100 people, 75 people had missing teeth of which 28 were females and 47 males. 75 % of the examined population had missing teeth with 28 % being females and 47% males. This survey found that females had higher occurrence rate of missing teeth. Most people had missing teeth for a time period of 1 year to 8 years.



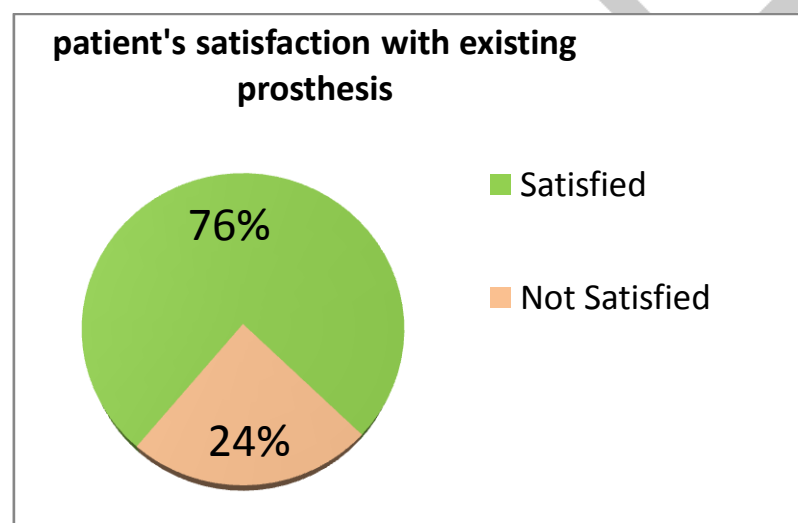
Patients who received prosthetic rehabilitation

Out of 75 people having missing teeth, 29 of them haven't got a replacement done which counts for 29 % among people having missing teeth. Remaining 46 of the 75 people with missing teeth got their teeth replaced which counted for 61.3 % of the population with missing teeth. Of the 29 people who haven't got replaced 13 were females and 16 males and of 46 people who got missing teeth replaced, 15 were female and 31 males.



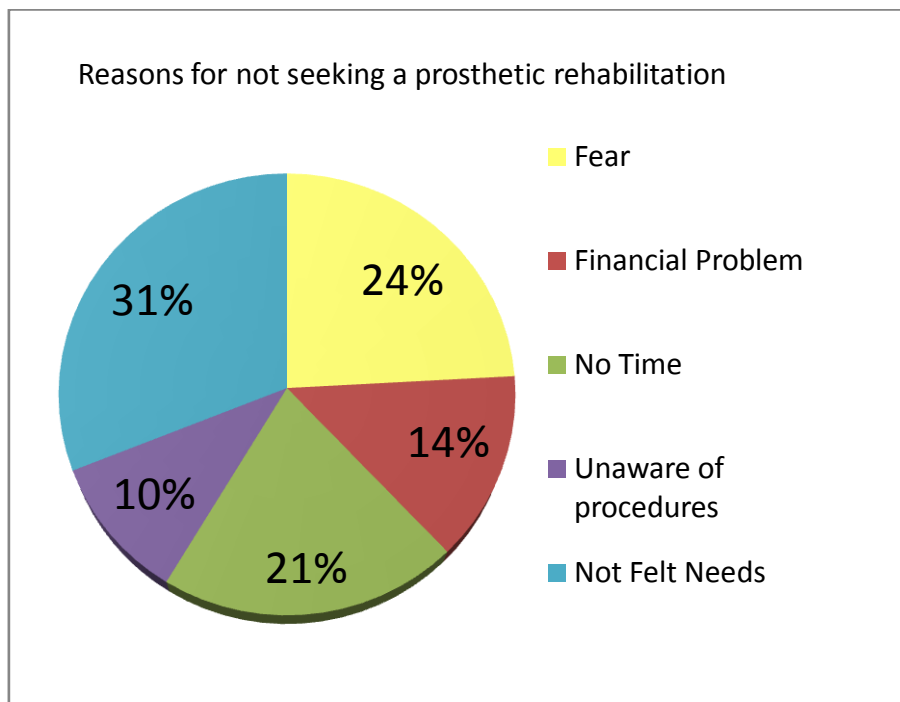
Patient's satisfaction with existing dental prosthesis

As per the study, 46 people out of 100 people with missing teeth had got a prosthesis done which was 46 % of the missing teeth population. Among the 46 people who had prosthesis, 35 were satisfied and the remaining 11 had complaints on their prosthesis.



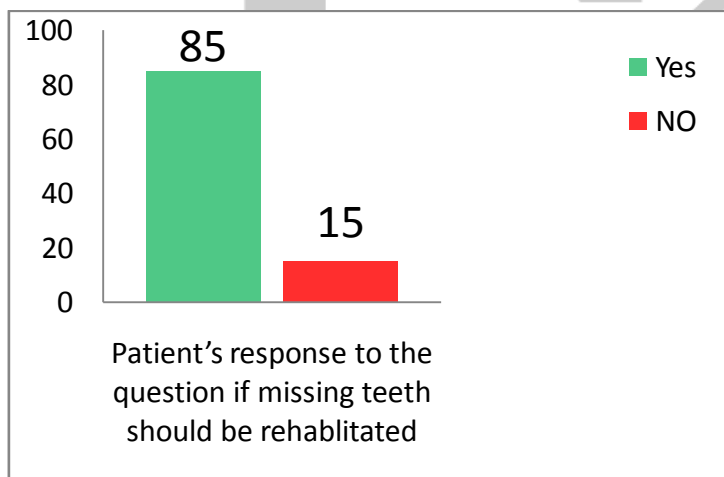
Reasons for not seeking a prosthetic rehabilitation

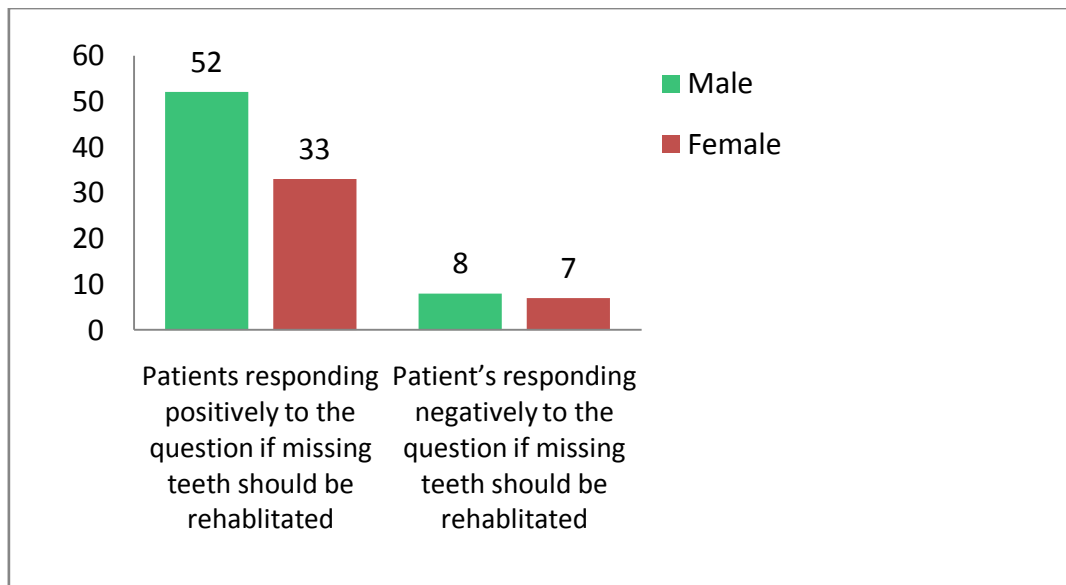
Out of 29 people with missing teeth not having replaced, 24% of this population didn't get replacement done because of their fear towards dental procedures which accounted for 7 people among the 29. 14% that is 4 among the 29 had financial issues. 20% which is 6 of 29 had no sufficient time for dental procedures. 10% which is 3 out of 29 weren't aware any such procedures. 31 % which comprises 9 on 29 who felt there was no necessity for replacing missing teeth.



Patient's response to the question if missing teeth should be rehabilitated

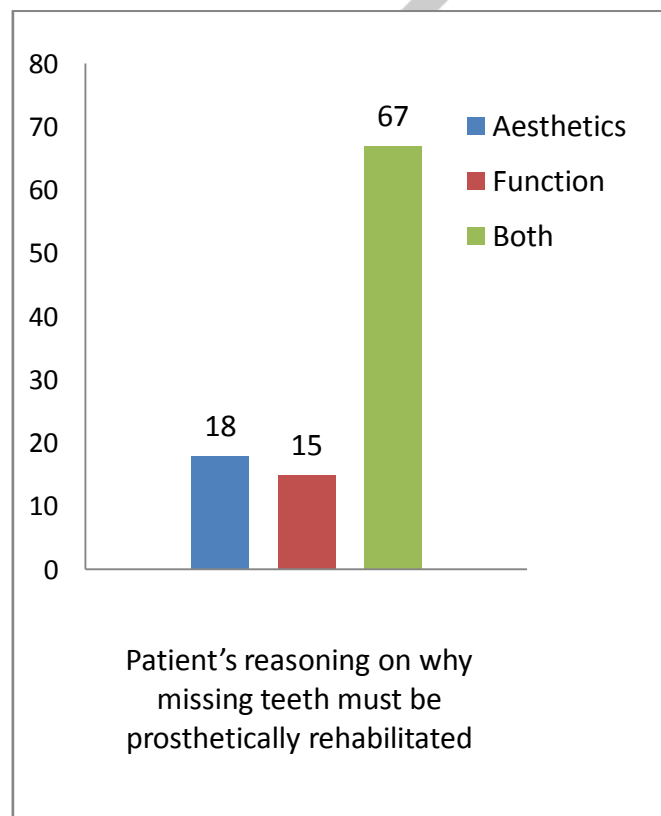
Among a survey of 100 people, 85 people which is 85% of population said that missing teeth must be replaced. Among this group 52 were males and 33 were females corresponding to 52 % and 33 % male and females respectively who said missing teeth must be replaced whereas 8 males and 7 females found no need of replacing the tooth.

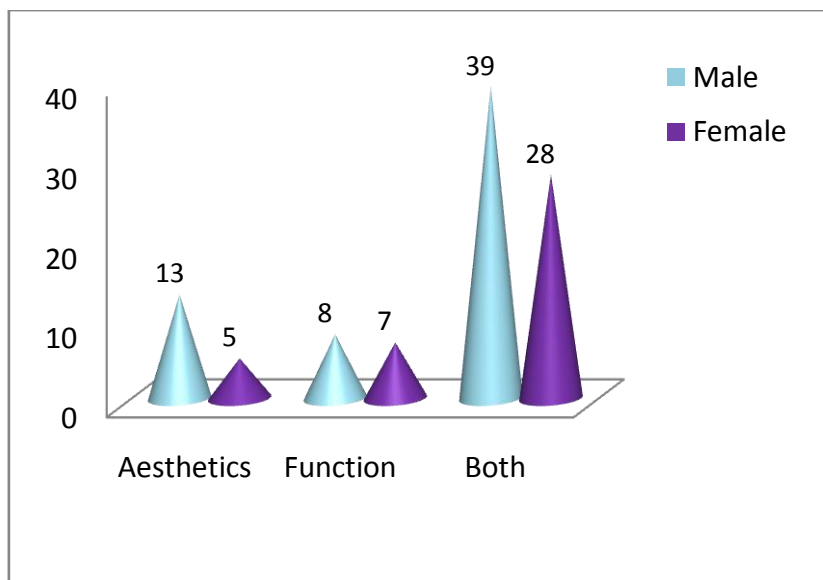




Patient's reasoning on why missing teeth must be prosthetically rehabilitated

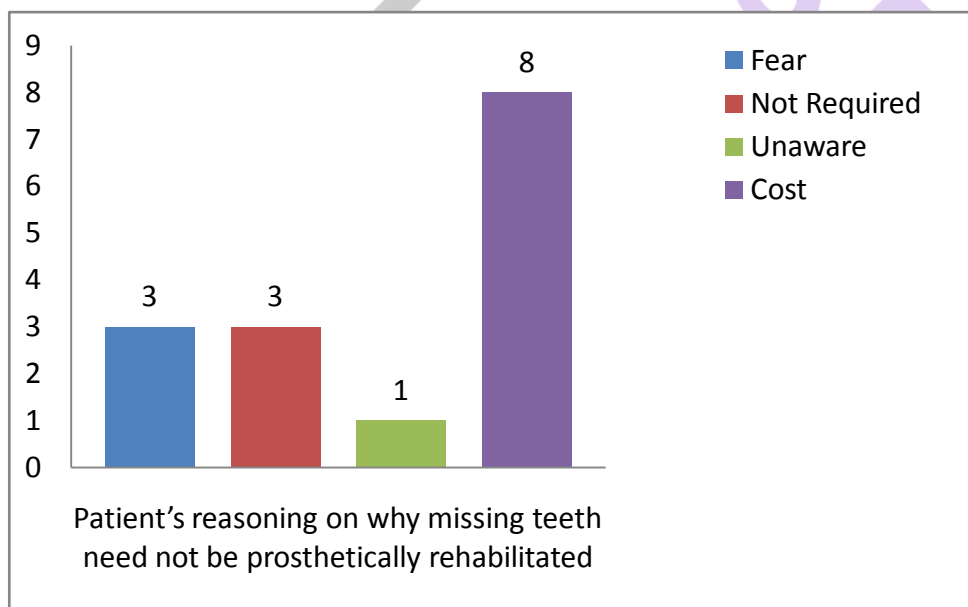
Among the total survey population, 18 % said replacement must be done to restore aesthetics. Which is 18 among 100 people with 5 females and 13 males. 15% of the population wanted replacement to restore function which is 15 among 100 with 7 females and 8 males. 67% of the entire population said teeth must be replaces both for aesthetics as well as function which is 67 of 100 with 28 females and 39 males.

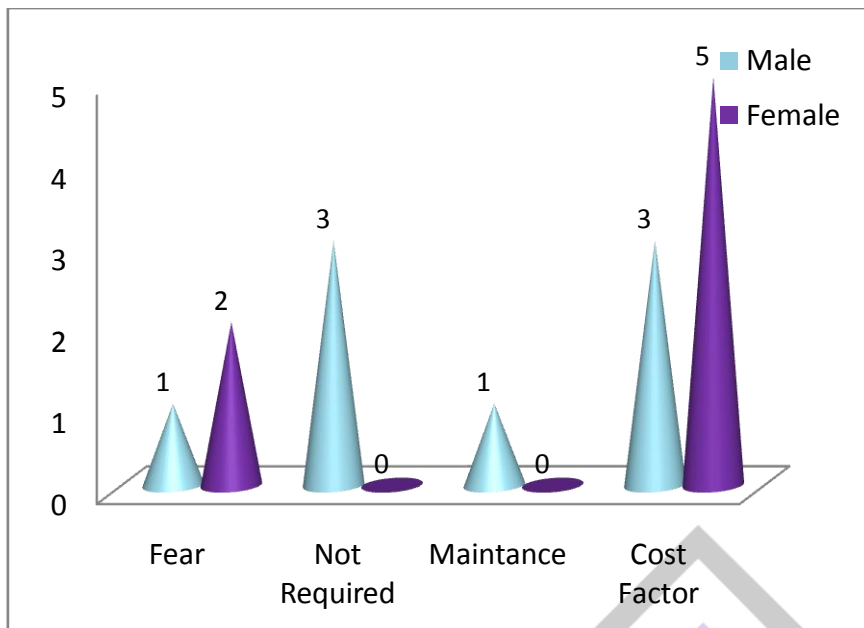




Patient's reasoning on why missing teeth need not be prosthetically rehabilitated

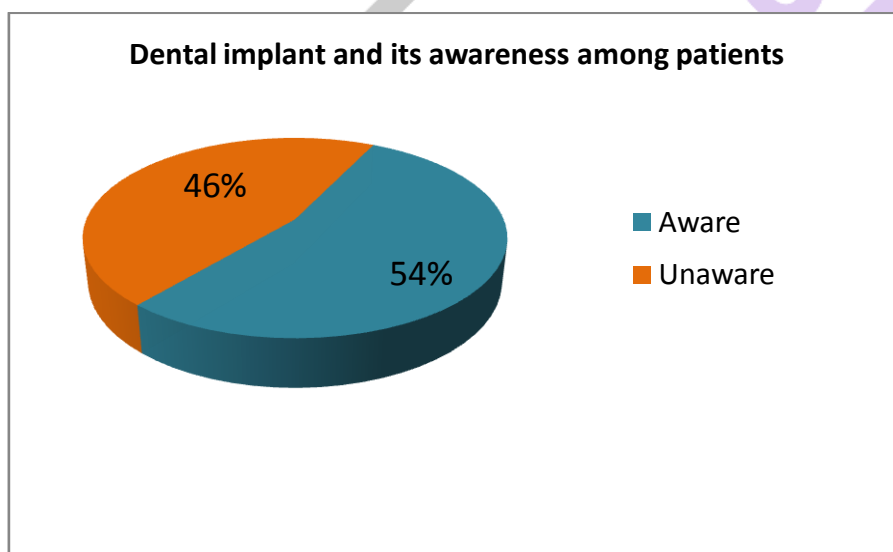
15 people among the entire population under survey said that missing teeth is not necessary to be replaced. The reason was fear in 20% of this population with 2 female and 1 male. 20 % of this group had no felt needs for replacing missing teeth which comprises of 0 female and 3 male. 7 % of people here felt maintenance difficulty to be the reason for neglecting the need to replace teeth that were missing which is 1 males of this group. Cost was another factor that bothered this population which is 53% with 5 females and 3 males.





Dental implant and its awareness among patients

54 % of the entire population was aware of dental implant as a rehabilitation technique for missing teeth. 54 people among 100 were aware with 29 males and 25 females in them who make 54% and 46 % respectively of this population.



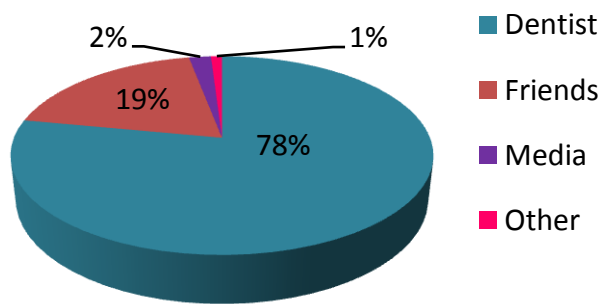
Patient's awareness on other prosthetic rehabilitation technique

Most people were aware of complete dentures. Many knew about fixed partial dentures. Most people who knew about FPD were also aware of removable partial dentures. Relatively less population was aware of dental implants.

Various source of awareness about prosthetic rehabilitation

Most of the people were aware of replacement techniques by dentists. Few were informed by friends. And very few were informed through media or other sources.

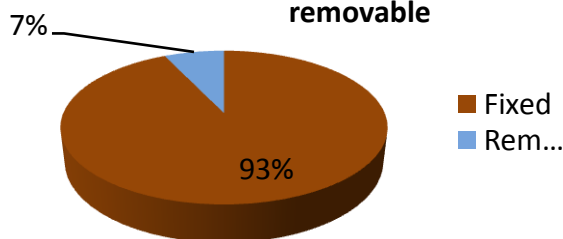
Various source of awareness about prosthetic rehabilitation



Patient's preference of fixed prosthesis over removable

In this survey when people were asked about their preference of replacement technique, most of them preferred a fixed prosthesis rather than a removable one. 93 % of population which is 93 of 100 wanted a fixed prosthesis where as very few that is 7 people who make 7% of the total population preferred removable over fixed.

Patient's preference of fixed prosthesis over removable



Discussion

The level of awareness of implant as an option for replacement of missing teeth recorded by Kumar et al was 4.83%. this might be because the study conducted by kumar et al were on people who belonged to low socio economic status and quality of education (8).

Study conducted by Johanny et al.,(9) Tepper et al.,[10] and Best,[11] Zimmer et al.,[12] Berge[13] recorded the level of awareness in their different studies to be from 66.4% to as high as 77%.

Elias and Sheiham conducted a review of literature and found that, in general, patients were more likely to seek replacement of a missing anterior tooth than a posterior tooth, and rated aesthetics above function in their priority for tooth replacement (14).

The Adult Dental Health Survey of 1998 in the UK, also noted that patients with a reduced dentition were more likely to seek replacement of an anterior tooth, but a significant proportion felt that they would also prefer to have missing posterior teeth replaced (15).

Osterberg et al. reported that an individual's subjective need for the replacement of missing teeth was based mainly upon esthetic rather than functional factors (16).

Conclusion

Among the entire population in the survey 54.6% of population had missing teeth. Among them 60.9% of population didn't get their lost teeth replaced where as 39% of them got their missing replaced. Mostly females were concerned about aesthetics but majority of population wanted both aesthetics and function be restored. Among the ones who haven't got replaced, most of them were bothered about the cost and few had fear towards dental procedures. on enquiring regarding implants 45% of the entire population was aware. Most of them were informed through dentist and few through friends. When asked about their preference in prosthesis, most of them preferred fixed and very few wanted removable.

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