

# A Questionnaire Survey to Assess the Attitude of Patients about Replacement of Teeth

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Running Title: Patient's Attitude about Replacement of Teeth

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **AIM:**

To evaluate the attitude of the patient towards replacement of teeth.

### **MATERIALS AND METHOD:**

A cross sectional pilot survey was conducted among 100 out-patients who visited saveetha dental college, Chennai. Both male and female patients were included in the survey. (Male=57 and female=43). Both the patient's with partial and complete edentulous mouth were included in the survey. For better understanding the questionnaire was translated and presented to them in the native language (Tamil). The questionnaire included basic demographics questions and also questions to evaluate the attitude of the patient. The teeth which was missing eg: Anterior or posterior were also asked to evaluate the need of replacement.

### **RESULT:**

Among the 100 patients 57 were male and 43 were female. About 76% of the patients belonged to the age group of 30-50 years, 21% belonged to 50-70 years and 3% belonged to 20-30 years.

Around 37% of the patients had no educational qualification and 63% had some kind of an educational qualification. Around 71% of the patient belonged to low socioeconomic status and 19% belonged to medium and 10% belonged to high socioeconomic status. Around 79% of the patients in this study were partially edentulous and remaining 21% were completely edentulous.

Only 32% of the patients were willing to spend for the treatment and only 24% of the patients have reported for the treatment within 3 months of loosing their teeth.

**CONCLUSION:** From this study it can be concluded that most of the patients have a positive attitude towards the replacement of missing teeth but lack knowledge about the function of teeth other than mastication such as phonetics and aesthetics. Patients also lacked knowledge about Implants which is the upcoming treatment of option for replacement of missing teeth.

**KEYWORDS:** Denture, replacement, missing teeth

## **INTRODUCTION:**

In this fast paced social world, the way we look has an important role to play in the interaction with other people. Self confidence and perception about one's own self is directly affected by the appearance and smile. Face is the index of mind and smile is the window into one's personality. In the modern world, there is high correlation between dental health especially aesthetics and emotions of an individual.

In order to maintain a positive self image dentition is considered important.

Loss of teeth is now considered to be very traumatic and difficult for the patient both socially and psychologically. The response of the individual towards edentulosis and their attitude towards dentures is important for acceptance of denture by the individual.

People have high expectations about dentures than in the past. Edentulism in patients may be due to various factors such as poor oral health, educational background, socioeconomic status and also related to the experience in past dental treatment.

The main factors that determine the acceptability of patient for treatment are comfort, function and aesthetics. Comfort and function is determined by mechanical and biological factors such as muscle function, adaptability, stability and support of the denture. Social and cultural factors and the belief of the patients also determine the prosthetic acceptance of the patient.

Patient's satisfaction is of utmost importance while providing a prosthesis. Patient's attitude towards dentures before the patient actually receives a denture can be used as a prospective tool to determine their satisfaction after the denture is delivered.

In India not much of importance has been given to evaluate the attitude of the patient towards receiving a denture. Thus this survey was conducted among the patients who were partially or completely edentulous about their attitude towards the replacement of the missing teeth.

#### MATERIALS AND METHOD:

A cross sectional pilot survey was conducted among 100 out-patients who visited saveetha dental college, Chennai. Both male and female patients were included in the survey. (Male=57 and female=43). Both the patient's with partial and complete edentulous mouth were included in the survey. For better understanding the questionnaire was translated and presented to them in the native language (Tamil). The questionnaire included basic demographics questions and also questions to evaluate the attitude of the patient. The teeth which was missing eg: Anterior or posterior were also asked to evaluate the need of replacement. The responses were obtained and tabulated and the results were drawn.

**QUESTIONNAIRE: ATTITUDE TOWARD REPLACEMENT OF TEETH**

- 1.Name:
- 2.Age:
- 3.Sex:
- 4.Education : Literate/ Illiterate
- 5.Socioeconomic status: Low/Medium/High
- 6.Type of edentulism? Partial/Complete
- 7..Are you willing to spend money for dental treatment? Yes/No
- 8.When did u loose your teeth? Within 3 months/ More than 3 months
- 9.Reason for not replacing the teeth within 3 months? Cost/Didn't feel the need/No time
- 10.Do you feel like you need to replace the missing teeth? Yes/No
- 11.If yes, Why do u feel the need for replacement? Mastication/speech/aesthetics
- 12.which teeth is missing? Anterior/posterior
- 13.Do you think artificial tooth is equivalent to natural tooth? Yes/No
- 14.Do you think artificial teeth will cause problem? Yes/No
15. What kind of replacement do you desire? Removable/Fixed
16. Do u have any idea about Implants? Yes/No

FIG 1: Questionnaire

#### RESULTS:

Among the 100 patients 57 were male and 43 were female. About 76% of the patients belonged to the age group of 30-50 years, 21% belonged to 50-70 years and 3% belonged to 20-30 years.

Around 37% of the patients had no educational qualification and 63% had some kind of an educational qualification. Around 71% of the patient belonged to low socioeconomic status and 19% belonged to medium and 10% belonged to high socioeconomic status.

Around 79% of the patients in this study were partially edentulous and remaining 21% were completely edentulous. Only 32% of the patients were willing to spend for the treatment and only 24% of the patients have reported for the treatment within 3 months of losing their teeth.

68% didn't replace their missing teeth because of financial difficulties and around 30% didn't have the time to do it only 2% didn't feel the need to replace it immediately. 100% of the patient who reported with partial or complete edentulism needed replacement and 87% of the patient with posterior missing and completely edentulous patient needed replacement for mastication where as only 23% needed replacement because of aesthetic purposes. Around 54% had missing posterior teeth and 25% had missing anteriors and 21% were completely edentulous. 54% of the patient feels artificial teeth is similar to natural teeth and 65% feels artificial teeth will cause problems.

95% of the patients desired fixed replacement if not for the cost and only 15% of the patients had an idea about implants.

#### DISCUSSION:

Since the data available that had measured the attitude of the patients towards the replacement of missing teeth, this study was done in an aim to record the attitude of the patient towards the same.

Most of the patients in this study belonged to the age group of 30-50 year which was in sequence with the study conducted by kamal shigli et al in which the patients who reported to the hospital and desired replacement belonged to the age group of 46-55 years. Patients above the age of 65 years have lower priority towards their dental health and make very less use of the dental facilities available, they don not utilise the dental facilities like the medical facilities, this may be attributed by the lack of knowledge,

difficulty to travel to reach the dental clinic or hospital. Also the lack of interest and least amount of concern in their aesthetic as they grow older could be attributing factors too.

Due to the minimal charges for dentures most of the people included in this study belonged to the low income socioeconomic status. Individuals with high income-always have a positive approach towards dental care. Individuals with higher educational qualification also would have better knowledge towards the need and necessity for replacement of missing teeth and would have a positive approach towards the treatment.

Poor education, lack of knowledge about preventive treatments available and neglect act as a key contributing factors for dental health neglect.

Most of the people usually save up for medical health issues but fail to do so for dental health. In India there are insurances for medical issues but are very minimal for dental like the Yeshaswini Health Insurance Scheme administered by Yeshaswini trust which provides coverage for minor and major procedures even in outpatient basis.

100% of all the patients in this study were willing to have their missing teeth replaced which was in sync with the study conducted by kamal shigli et al but was not in sync with akeel et al's study in which only 82% was willing for treatment.

Majority of the patient didn't wanna replace their missing teeth because of their financial crisis which was in agreement with the results obtained by Macek et al.

In this study the patients who reported for replacement mainly wanted it for mastication rather than aesthetics. The knowledge about the need for aesthetics usually motivates the patients to wear new dentures. Most of the people in India only know the functional use of the teeth and not the aesthetics and phonation.

Humans usually adapt to their needs thus even when people loose a significant amount of teeth they get adapted with those edentulous spaces.

More than half of the patient feel that artificial teeth is similar to natural teeth because of they similar colour and form. The patients usually have expectations which are often complex and difficult to change. Around 65% of the people feel like they might have a problem with dentures

Which could be attributed by their previous experiences. However patients have high expectations and which can be met by proper planning and manufacturing the denture to be in harmony with hard and soft tissue.

Most of the patients in this study wanted a fixed prosthesis rather than a removable one, however they preferred a removable one due to their socioeconomic statuses.

Only very few people had knowledge about implants. Thus more knowledge and awareness must be imparted about the same.

#### CONCLUSION:

From this study it can be concluded that most of the patients have a positive attitude towards the replacement of missing teeth but lack knowledge about the function of teeth other than mastication such as phonetics and aesthetics. Patients also lacked knowledge about Implants which is the upcoming treatment of option for replacement of missing teeth.

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