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Research Article

POST INSERTION PROBLEMS IN COMPLETE DENTURE PROSTHODONTICS - A SURVEY OF FREQUENCY OF DIFFERENT TYPES

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Fabrication of successful complete dentures is dependent on technical, biological, and psychological interplay between the clinician and the patient. Although every effort like proper diagnosis, patient education, mouth preparation, optimal clinical procedures etc are made, it is almost impossible to deliver an absolutely problem-free complete denture. Postinsertion problems are a reality to be faced and tackled. Patient satisfaction is a critical determinant in the success or failure of complete denture therapy. This study was aimed at eliciting information regarding the frequency of post insertion problems in general, as well as the frequency of the individual types. Study design: A questionnaire survey was conducted among 200 randomly selected practitioners of the state of Kerala and Karnataka to ascertain their subjective assessment regarding the above. **Results:** The data obtained is statistically analyzed and presented. The results of the study helped to establish: 1) Overall percentage of post insertion problem experienced; 2) Frequency of individual types of problems; and 3) Follow up periodicity. **Conclusion:** The study showed that the looseness or reduced retention was the most common post insertion complaint.

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INTRODUCTION

Complete-denture therapy involves a complex interplay between the biologic and technical limitations. The successful solution of difficult diagnostic problems depends on powers of observation, artistic skill, and scientific preparation. For scientific therapy, knowledge of the disease is a prerequisite. Such knowledge is based on an understanding of the etiology. The treatment of a disease by utilization of knowledge of its etiology and an understanding of the action of the therapeutic agents is called the etiological mode of procedure.

Even when utmost care is taken in the fabrication of complete dentures, there are always unforeseen problems that arise when the patient is attempting to adjust to the new prosthesis. The majority of complete denture patients are apparently well satisfied, but a small percentage of patients persistently seek adjustments. Technical faults aside, the patients psychological well-being is postulated as a source of denture problems. Many practitioners will experience a situation, whereby a patient with newly fabricated complete dentures continues to experience difficulty in adapting to them. Post insertion problems are a reality to be faced and tackled. Studies have confirmed that

approximately 50% of complete denture patients present post insertion complaints. This article provides information regarding the frequency of post insertion problems in general, as well as the frequency of individual types. This survey study was aimed at eliciting information from dental practitioners regarding their experiences related to post insertion problems in complete denture practice in general, frequency of the individual types of complaints, and overall follow up regimen.

METHODOLOGY

For collecting information about post insertion complaints a questionnaire survey was conducted among 200 randomly selected practitioners of Northern Kerala and Southern Karnataka to ascertain their subjective assessment. For the ease of the data collection, a three page questionnaire was prepared and sends to the selected practitioners with stamped envelope for return of the same. Then the filled questionnaires were categorized in to two groups based on the type of the respondents that is general practitioners or specialists. Finally the collected data was pooled up for the ease of statistical analysis.

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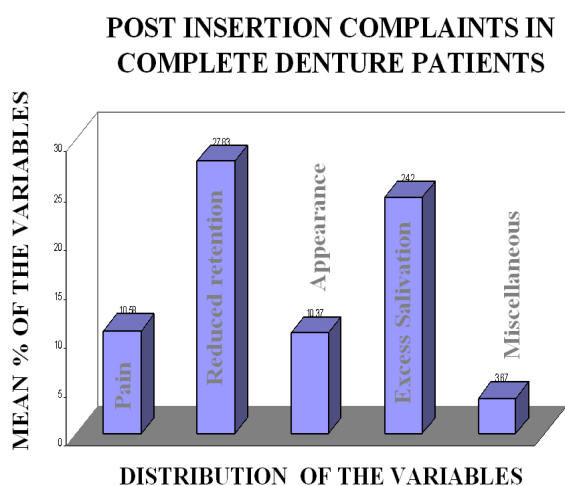
RESULTS

The statistical analysis was carried out using statistical package SPSS version 10. Since the range was too high, the mean percentages of post insertion complaints are presented. Here for the analysis, students 't' test is also used. The results of this study showed that about 100% of practitioners (both General practitioners and Specialists) have the habit of regular follow up of complete denture cases. The follow up periodicity ranged from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 6 months. The post insertion follow up was not maintained by both specialists and the general practitioners.

For the ease of interpretation of the results obtained, the related complaints were pooled up and their mean percentage is calculated as follows (Table 1 and Graph 1 and Pie diagram 1)

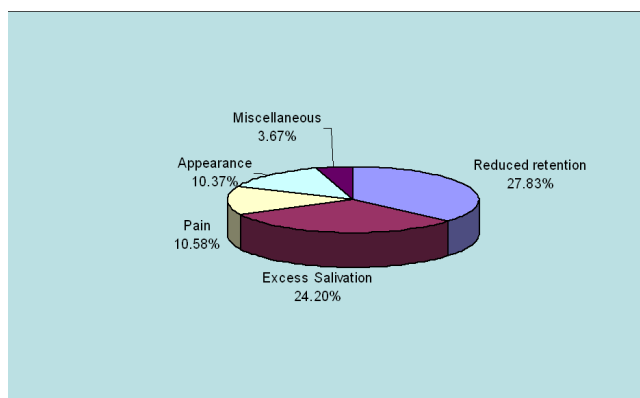
Table 1 showing the most frequent post insertion complaints and their percentage.

Post Insertion Complaints	Mean %
1. Looseness of denture or reduced retention and Stability	27.83%
2. Excess Salivation	24.20%
3. Pain	10.58%
4. Appearance or improper esthetics	10.37%
5. Miscellaneous	3.67%



Graph 1

POST INSERTION COMPLAINTS IN COMPLETE DENTURE PATIENTS



Pie Diagram 1

Graph 1 and Pie diagram 1 showing the post insertion complaints and their mean percentage.

- The study showed that the looseness or reduced retention was the most common post insertion complaint showing a mean percentage of 27.83.
- Allergy to acrylic denture base and tongue biting were the least post insertion complaints showing a mean percentage of 0.66.
- Excess salivation and pain were the predominating post insertion problem found especially in new denture patients.

DISCUSSION

A major challenge in dental practice continues to be the successful management of the complete denture patient who experiences ongoing difficulty with his or her dentures. Often there is not total agreement between the patient and the dentist as to the adequacy of their dentures. This differing perception of patient needs makes management more difficult. Several authors cite the most frequent complaints with complete dentures are those pertaining to retention and stability, esthetics, comfort while eating, and the accumulation of food under appliance. Jeganathan *et al* in 1993 reviewed the common faults in complete dentures and concluded that the satisfaction with the complete denture therapy is dependent on communication between the dentist and the patient, sound diagnostic and practical skills of the operator, and continuous aftercare. Some patients find it difficult to adequately manage removable prostheses of any kind, especially complete dentures. Moreover, the systemic medical conditions and local physical factors may make successful wearing of complete denture more difficult. The concept of difficult denture birds was described by Koper (1988). The difficult denture birds is defined as a problem denture patient with much experience as a recipient of various kind of dental therapy. They are individuals who complain, have pain, are hostile, tense, anxious, and unhappy people. They often exhibit regressive behavior and transfer many of their fear and frustrations to their mouth and face.

Morstand and Petersen This study is very significant since any dental practitioner, whether specialist or general practitioner must have faced the most difficult part of complete denture fabrication, tackling with the post insertion problems. So it will be quite interesting to know the frequency of each complaint and by knowing the most common problem, one can try to keep it minimum, if not possible to avoid it fully. Various studies by authors have found significant relationships between the denture construction faults and poor denture retention. Jeganathan and Payne¹¹ reviewed the literature and noted that underextension of denture bases and vertical and horizontal jaw relationships were the most frequently observed faults. Cabot¹³ had conducted similar study and found that senior undergraduate students and general practitioners experienced difficulty in recognizing errors in base extension and occlusal vertical dimension when compared with specialists. The study showed that the success of the future prosthesis is also dependent on the mental attitude of the patient. The present study also suggests that better experience and through knowledge is required to fabricate a complete denture and to tackle the post insertion problems.

CONCLUSION

Denture insertion represents the culmination of a series of carefully considered and exacting procedures on the part of the doctor. It is also the moment eagerly awaited by the patient, who has cooperated in both time and effort toward this event. Well made dentures enable the patient to have comfort, adequate function, and an appearance that will further society relationships and participation. Greater experience and more training are required to accomplish both proper relief of pain from dentures and denture correction than are required for the initial construction. The concept of difficult denture birds was described by Koper (1988). The difficult denture birds is defined as a problem denture patient with much experience as a recipient of various kind of dental therapy. They are individuals who complain, have pain, are hostile, tense, anxious, and unhappy people. They often exhibit regressive behavior and transfer many of their fear and frustrations to their mouth and face. A thorough knowledge of factors involved in construction of complete dentures is essential before attempting post insertion check up. Without having through knowledge, any attempt made to solve post insertion problems will lead to haphazard reduction of prosthesis which will compromise its purpose, also leading to repeated patient visits and dissatisfaction of the patient. A careful analysis based on a thorough understanding of usual and unusual tissue response as well as of the basic principles of complete denture prosthesis is crucial in eliminating the problems associated with complete denture use. Adjustment of dentures is a very important step in denture service. It is work of precision and requires keep judgment and digital dexterity in its performance.

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