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Research Article

AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEY TO ASSESS THE ORAL HYGIENE AWARENESS OF PATIENTS WITH IMPLANT SUPPORTED PROSTHESIS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine the awareness of the patients in maintaining their oral hygiene status who have been treated with implant supported prosthesis. 100 patients were given questionnaire regarding their oral hygiene maintenance in relation to the implant supported prosthesis and the instructions given to them by their doctors. From the conducted survey it was evident that oral hygiene instructions play an integral part in maintenance of the implant supported prosthesis and the dental practitioners have to emphasise on the oral hygiene maintenance of the elderly individual.

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INTRODUCTION

Recently it has been observed that there is a strong co-relation between poor oral hygiene and diseases of the implant supported prosthesis. An awareness of this relationship has stimulated dentists to place greater emphasis on teaching patients the importance of good oral hygiene and the best methods for obtaining it. The current emphasis on patient education and on research in oral hygiene has underlined the need for the understanding of patient awareness on maintaining implant supported prosthesis. Beyond aesthetic concerns the maintaining of good implant supported prosthesis hygiene plays an essential role in the prevention of various intraoral diseases such as stomatitis and implantitis. Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, WHO 2013

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study sample consisted of 100 subjects. Patients were selected from Department of Prosthodontics, A B Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences, and Mangalore who had undergone treatment for any form of implant supported prosthesis. An informed consent was taken from each patient before conducting the survey. The information was collected

with the help of special prepared questionnaire, which consisted 10 questions. The questions were regarding the implant supported prosthesis and its maintenance.

RESULTS

Questionnaire forms from all patients were collected and data obtained is represented in the form of Bar Diagram

RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE BY PATIENTS

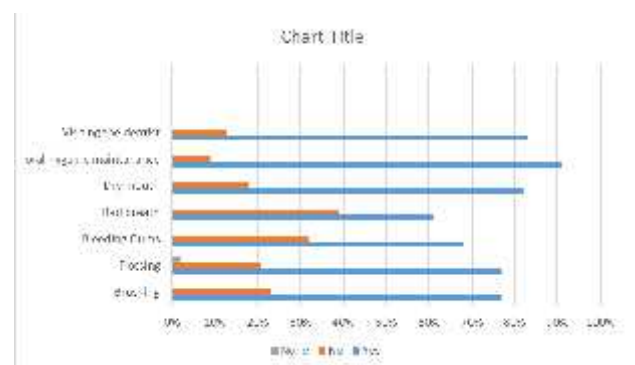


Figure 1

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Among the total sample size of 100 patients, 77 mentioned that they brush twice daily and 23 brush once daily. Out of 100 patients, 2 of them use dental floss daily twice, 21 use it once and 77 of them don't use at all. Patients with an issue about the bleeding gums were 32 out of 100. Out of 100 patients 39 of them complained of bad odour from their oral cavity and 61 of them had no complaints. Patients having discomfort in the oral cavity such as dry mouth or reduced flow of saliva were seen to be 18 out of 100 patients. When patients were asked if the dentist has given the post treatment instructions and has informed them about the oral hygiene maintenance, 91 out of 100 patients gave a positive response. Out of 100 patients, 4 patients visit their dentist once in 3 months, 13 patients visit their dentist in 6 months and the rest in a year

DISCUSSION

The study of oral hygiene in implant supported prosthesis patients is becoming increasingly important because of the increasing number of patients with implant supported prosthesis in the world. Poor oral hygiene is frequently cited as a local aetiological factor in implant supported prosthesis patients. Plaque retention is a problem in elderly individuals, exacerbated by existing restorations, missing teeth, gingival recession and wearing of removable prosthesis. Many elderly individuals have difficulty in mechanically removing plaque because of diminished manual dexterity, impaired vision or associated debilitating conditions. Hence it is more important to consider the oral hygiene of elderly individuals with implant supported prosthesis (Y. Kulak-ozkan et al, 2002).

In this epidemiological survey 100 implant supported prosthesis patients were given questionnaire regarding their oral hygiene. The questions were explained to the patient and they were asked to tick their choice. Results of this survey showed that all the patients brushed their teeth at least once a day. Out of 100, 23 of them implemented the practice of brushing twice daily. Brushing plays an important role in maintenance of oral hygiene as it is the most important tool in oral hygiene. Brushing is affected by deterioration of motor activity of patients as the age advances. Among 100 patients only 23 of them used dental floss. Flossing is less commonly practiced by the patients as an aid to maintain oral hygiene. 32 out of 100 patients had difficulty about bleeding gums, as it might be due to poor plaque control. It can also be attributed to certain systemic diseases and medications patients are on. 61 out of 100 patients complained about bad odour. This may be due to improper cleaning and maintaining of the implant supported prosthesis. Fixed prosthesis has to be maintained by brushing and by use of dental floss. Removable prosthesis has to be cleaned on the intaglio and cameo surface. Patients fail to maintain removable prosthesis more often.

Among 100 patients, 18 of them had a problem with reduced salivary flow.

This situation arises in elderly patients with implant supported prosthesis who are suffering from systemic diseases. Out of 100 patients, 91 of them were instructed by their dentist about maintenance of oral hygiene. It is important for the elderly patients to be instructed about maintenance and regular visit to the dentist. In a study done, they suggest that significant problems of poor oral hygiene and lack of dental care for the dentate elderly people was seen, both measured professionally and perceived subjectively (Simons D et al, 2001). Also, in this current study it is seen that the dentists have been instructing the patient about oral hygiene but the patient have not been following it strictly. This can be due to the misperception of the instructions by the dentists. Language can be a problem due to the diversity of patients. The dentist may not be able to give good oral hygiene instructions to the people in their language.

A study was done to evaluate complications and maintenance requirements of implant-supported prostheses in a UK dental hospital, prosthodontic maintenance requirements were high, particularly during the first year. Surgical complications were relatively infrequent. A case was made for a rigorous oral hygiene programme to reduce the potential for fixture loss through neglect. The results of the current study show that a more comprehensive oral hygiene program should be conducted for patients with implant supported prosthesis. Frequent and regular check-ups should be performed (Allen PF et al, 1997).

CONCLUSION

From the survey conducted it is evident that that patient awareness is critically important for the maintenance and health of implant supported prosthesis. It is clearly an important duty of the dental profession, at a time when the number of elderly is rapidly rising, to ensure that the implant supported prosthesis wearing public knows how to clean their prosthesis properly

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