

ORIGINAL ARTICLE**AWARENESS OF DENTAL IMPLANTS AS A TREATMENT MODALITY AMONG PEOPLE VISITING MAHATMA GANDHI DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, JAIPUR****Bhoomika Khosya¹, Devaraj CG²****Author's Affiliations:** ¹Post-graduate Resident; ²Professor & Head, Department of Periodontology, Mahatma Gandhi Dental College & Hospital, Jaipur**Correspondence:** Dr.Bhoomika Khosya, Email: drbhunikhosya@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

Background: Currently, dental implants are widely accepted as a prosthetic treatment of completely or partially edentulous patients. To assess awareness of Dental Implants as a treatment modality among people visiting Mahatma Gandhi Dental College & Hospital, Jaipur.

Methodology: A cross sectional survey was conducted among 114 patients visiting Mahatma Gandhi Dental College & Hospital, Jaipur using a self-explanatory questionnaire.

Results: Out of the 114 dental patients, only 40.4% had heard about dental implants as a treatment modality, most of them being in the age group of 15- 30 years (44.73%). 25.4% had heard it from their dentist and the rest had heard it from other sources like internet and friends. 18.4% of the people were willing to undergo the treatment if needed and 75.3% cited high costs as the main reason for refusal of the treatment.

Conclusion: Most of the studied subjects were not having information regarding implants. It showed need for providing more information to the patients about this treatment modality.

Keywords: Dental Implant, Awareness, High cost

INTRODUCTION

The aim of modern dentistry is to restore the patient to normal function, aesthetics, speech and health. Implants are unique because of their ability to achieve these ideal goals. Currently, dental implants are widely accepted as a prosthetic treatment of completely or partially edentulous patients.^{1,2} Dental implants have improved denture retention, stability, functional efficiency, and quality of life. Implant are elective procedure in most of the cases³ so complete information on implant treatment and other alternative therapies must be provided to guide the patient in choice of the most appropriate option.⁴ Little information is available to patients regarding the procedure and its success. This problem is more in developing nations where there is lack of education and awareness amongst people about dental implants as a dental treatment modality. Therefore, complete information on implant treatment must be provided to guide the patient in the choice of the most appropriate option. There-

fore the aim of the present study was to assess the awareness of dental implants as a treatment modality for replacement of missing teeth amongst people visiting Mahatma Gandhi Dental College & Hospital, Jaipur.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross sectional survey was conducted among the patients visiting Mahatma Gandhi Dental College & Hospital, Jaipur. The survey was conducted over a Period of 6 months. The information was collected using a self explanatory questionnaire . Some questions were chosen to assess patient awareness, acceptance and perceived cost of dental Implants as a treatment modality for replacement of missing teeth. The questionnaires were given to all the patients during their visit to Mahatma Gandhi Dental College & Hospital. The content of the questionnaire was prepared both in Hindi and

English and was explained in local language to those who needed assistance.

Inclusion criteria: All the subjects coming to dental college and who were willing to give informed consent and above 15 years of age were included.

RESULTS

The present survey was done to know about patient’s awareness, acceptance and their perceived cost of dental Implants as a treatment modality for replacement of missing teeth in patients visiting Department of Periodontology & Implantology of Mahatma Gandhi Dental College of Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. The study subjects aged 15 – 60 years (mean age 31.6±14.9 years) was selected. In all, 114 patients participated in the survey (M = 68(59.6%); F = 46(40.4%).

Table 1: Demographic data of studied population

Demographic Data (n=114)	Factor	No. (%)
Gender	Male	68 (59.6%)
	Female	46 (40.4%)
Age	15-30	51(44.73%)
	30-50	40(35.09%)
	>51	23(20.17%)

Table 2: Patient response to questions regarding awareness and knowledge of dental implants as a treatment modality for replacement of missing teeth

Questions	Yes (%)	No (%)
Do you think missing teeth should be replaced?	98 (86)	16 (14)
Have you heard of Dental Implants?	46 (40.4)	68 (59.6)

Table 3: Source of information for dental implants

Source	No. (%)
Dentist	29(25.4%)
Friends	7(6.1%)
Internet/Newspaper	10(8.8%)

Table 4: Information for willingness of having Dental Implants

Are you willing to undergo Implant procedure for your missing teeth?	No. (%)
Yes	21 (18.4%)
No	69 (60.5)
Not sure	24 (21%)

Table 1 summarizes the demographic data of all the subjects who participated in study.

When subjects were asked whether missing teeth should be replaced, overall 98 (86%) patients were in favor of replacing missing teeth. They were also asked whether they have heard of dental implants, as a treatment modality

Source of information among 46 subjects who were aware of Dental Implants, 29 (25.4%) subjects had got information from dental professionals followed by friends/internet/newspaper. (Table 3)

Patients, who were not aware of dental implants, were informed about dental implants and further questioned for their willingness to have dental implants. (Table 4)

Among 69 patients, who were not willing for dental implants as treatment option, 52(75.3%) subjects refused to have because of high cost.

Among 21 (18.4%) subjects, who were willing for dental implants, esthetic was of main concern followed by fixed prosthesis (6.1%) and no grinding of adjacent teeth (4.4%).

DISCUSSION

Dental implant treatment has been at the forefront of clinical dental practice for over a decade now. With increasing success rate of dental implant treatment more patients are opting implants as premier choice for replacement of missing teeth. Around one million dental implants are inserted each year, worldwide⁵. Information which is available to the patients regarding the procedure and its success rate is very less, especially in developing nation.

In present study 40.4% of the subjects were aware of dental implants. However these findings were lower than studies conducted by Zimmer et al(1992)⁶, Berge(2000)⁷, Tepper et al (2003)⁸ which reported the level of awareness as 77%, 70.1% and 72%, respectively .This may be because most of the patients in this study were of rural area. But results of present study were higher than Choudhary et al(2010)⁹ , Suprakash et al(2013)¹⁰

Dental professional were the most common source of information about dental implants (25.5%).This finding was similar to study done by Johany SA et al.(2010)¹¹,Choudhary et al (2010)⁹ ,Saha A et al(2013)¹² which also stated that most of the people got to know about implants by the dental professionals. However studies conducted by Zimmer et

al, (1992)⁶, showed that media was found to be the main source of information about dental implants. Similarly Berge (2000)⁷ and Best (1993)¹³ also observed media as first source followed by dentists. The study results reveal that patients in India get to know about the treatment modality only when they visit a dental office as compared to other countries where media plays a important role.

Of 69(60.5%) subjects who were not willing for implant treatment, main cause was they cannot afford. Tepper et al, (2003)⁸, in their study also found that high cost is main reason for not accepting implant treatment. The high costs of the procedure indicated that there was a need for dental insurance to cover the treatment for better and more acceptance of this treatment amongst the Indian people.

CONCLUSION

This study showed that only 40.4% of subject had information about dental implants and this information was provided to them mostly by dental professionals (25.4%). This clearly indicates creating awareness among the people regarding dental implants. Patients who were not opting for dental implant as a treatment the main limiting factor was high cost. As this survey was performed in a limited population, further detailed surveys are needed to learn more about awareness of dental implant.

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