

Knowledge and Attitude towards the Removable Partial Denture among the People of Karachi

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Abstract

Objectives: The aim of the study was to evaluate the knowledge and awareness among the individuals regarding the removable partial denture as an alternative for missing teeth and its types.

Study Design: Descriptive cross-sectional study.

Place and Duration: This survey was conducted in a private dental institute of Karachi and was carried out from 31st May 2020 to 15th September 2020.

Method and Materials: A total of 107 patients have participated in this study. A sample of 107 people were selected by random sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was made which was filled by 107 people. It was divided into two parts. The first half consisted of the patient's demographic details and the other half was to evaluate the level of knowledge people had about the removable partial dentures.

Results: According to the results out of 107 participant's majority were females (73.6% females and 26.4% males) and the study indicated that overall response was positive and stressed that a dentist plays an essential role in motivating a patient towards prosthetic restoration.

Conclusion: The findings of this study concluded that a dentist plays a huge role in educating and motivating a patient in utilizing prosthodontic treatments.

Keywords: RPD; Removable Partial Dentures; Partial Dentures

Introduction

A removable partial denture is the replacement of missing teeth, it is specifically a dental appliance which may be entirely supported by teeth, or can be entirely supported by tissues, or supported by a combination of the two which can be readily removed by the patient [1]. Removable partial denture is a branch of Prosthodontics which provides artificial substitute for the replacement of the missing teeth. It is divided into two types "complete denture prosthodontics" and "partial denture prosthodontics".

Tooth loss is a traumatizing experience from which many of us go through [2]. Due to the lack of awareness about prosthodontics replacement, mostly patients do not seek treatment immediately after tooth loss [3]. A removable partial denture (RPD) is a common treatment available for the restoration of partially edentulous ridges [4]. The knowledge of Removable Partial denture is an important component for dental problems such as for replacement of a missing tooth/teeth by an artificial substitute that is economically suitable for an individual as compared to other prosthesis [5].

Properly constructed partial denture must have stability, support and retention [6]. Oral health plays an important role in its longevity. Poor oral hygiene may lead to periodontal diseases which makes it hard to be used by the patient [7]. When economic factors influence the decision-making process, removable partial dentures are often chosen [8]. Many of the people are unaware of partial dentures as a substitute for pertaining the restorations in the mouth.

Methodology

This survey is based on a cross sectional study that was carried out at a private dental institute of Karachi. The survey was conducted from 31st May 2020 to 15th September 2020 to evaluate the knowledge, awareness and attitude towards the RPD among the patients and masses in Karachi. Data was collected using a self-administered structured questionnaire and analyzed by using SPSS version 20. A close-ended questionnaire was made and distributed between 107 individuals. The first part consisted of questions about the candidate’s socio-demographic status mainly age, gender and occupation and the second half was made up of questions related to different methods of restoring the missing teeth and its awareness among the people.

Results

In this study, a total of 107 questionnaires were filled between 15 - 54 years age group through random sampling technique, out of which majority of the participants were females (73.6% females and 26.4% males). The study conducted was to evaluate the knowledge of a partial denture as an alternative for missing teeth. On evaluation it was revealed that (77.1%) had an idea of partial denture as a substitute for a missing tooth whereas (22.9%) were completely unaware of it. The participants were asked about the different types they knew for replacing teeth and (65.1%) suggested of complete dentures, (63.2%) said partial dentures and bridges (21.7%). Next the participants were asked if they were willing to go for a removable partial denture if they had missing teeth and 57.5% responded positively whereas 42.5% denied. Participants were also asked about their thoughts on limitations of partial dentures/complete dentures and their response was lack of knowledge (50.9%), high cost (46.2%) and long treatment time (49.1%).

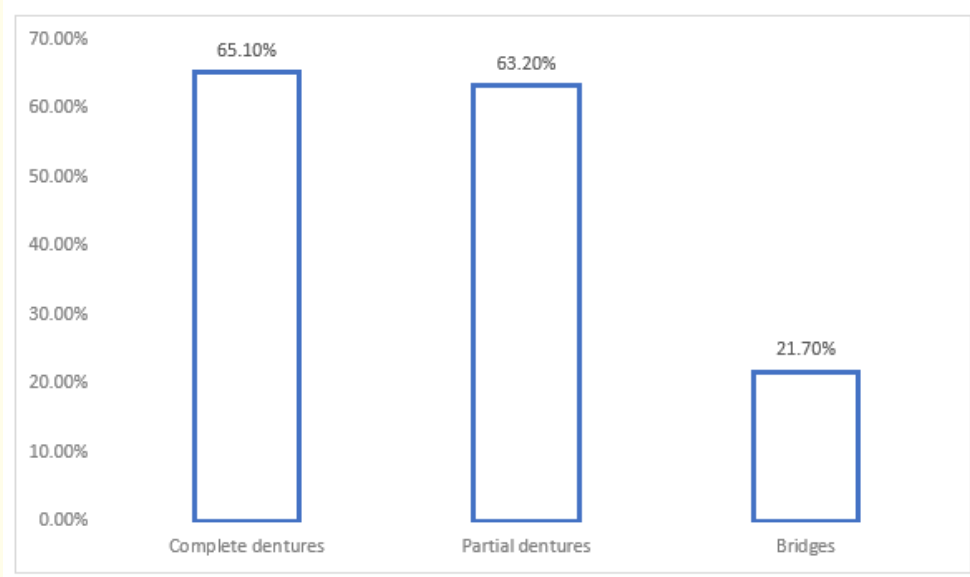


Figure 1: Survey on patient’s level of knowledge for replacing teeth.

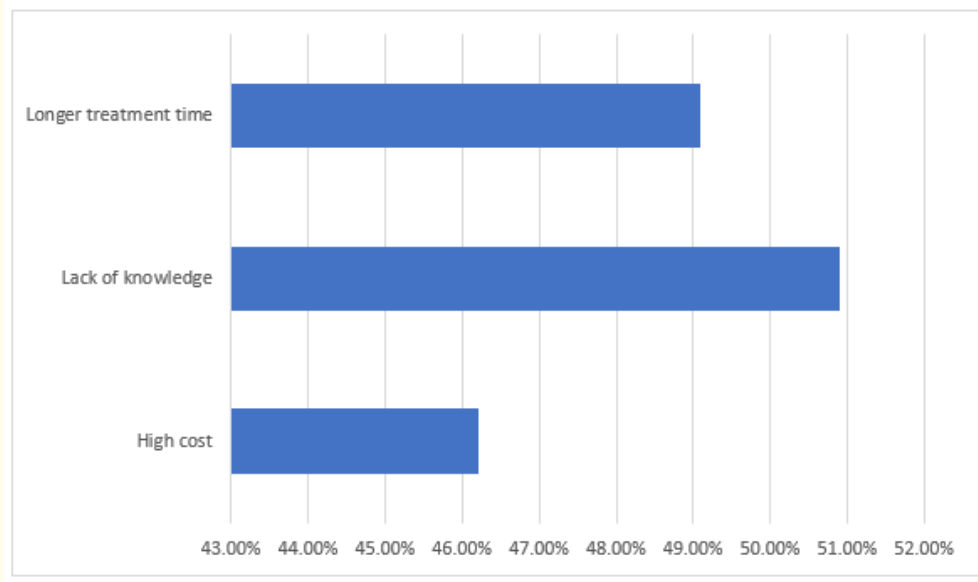


Figure 2: Limitations of a partial denture/complete denture.

Discussion

This study explores the extent of knowledge people have in pursuing an appliance for their missing teeth or an edentulous arch. Efforts were made to assess the level of understanding patients had about the removable partial denture. 107 people participated in this study out of which majority were females. More than half of the people were aware of the removable partial dentures and had a positive feedback but it is assumed that a dentist plays a big part in patient’s counselling and in decision making process.

Around the world many methods are being used for replacing missing teeth and the most convenient and affordable ones are the removable partial dentures. This survey was conducted in a dental institute of Karachi for evaluating patient’s knowledge over partial dentures and to raise awareness among them.

A previous study was conducted in another dental college with the aim to assess the patient’s attitude towards tooth replacement and majority of the patients did not have any sort of experience with a prosthesis and were unaware of it, whereas few responded that they were comfortable with the removable partial denture and mostly did not support the idea of artificial substitute. Hence it was concluded that a patient education regarding the appliances plays a huge role in selection of the appliances and dentist plays a fundamental role in patient’s awareness [9].

Another study was conducted in a tertiary care dental hospital in Peradeniya. The objective of this study was to assess the awareness, demand and attitude for the replacement of missing teeth made by the participants out of which majority of the study group was ready to get their missing teeth replaced by prosthetic means and were completely aware of the removable prosthesis but very little knew about the tooth supported bridges [10].

A similar study was conducted in India to evaluate the knowledge and attitude towards prosthodontics rehabilitation in the central population of Jabalpur city and it was revealed that mostly people had a positive feedback but nearly half of the population was completely unaware of the prosthodontic replacement and had insufficient knowledge about it [3].

A cross sectional quantitative study was conducted in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where they concluded that 53.1% of the population surveyed did not get their teeth replaced. And they emphasized that the lack of awareness of various prosthodontic treatment options prevents the patients from utilizing the treatment and hence education affects a lot on patient's decision [11].

Another study was conducted in some other dental institute of Karachi to evaluate the awareness, level of knowledge and attitude towards teeth-replacement options by the patients for prosthodontic treatments but the survey suggested that the patient's awareness for different treatment options for missing teeth was very low [12].

A cross sectional study was conducted on 150 patients in an Institute of Dental Sciences with the same motive to assess the patient's attitude and level of knowledge towards various tooth replacements like removable partial denture or an implant and it was revealed that 95% of the patients were aware of the prosthetic rehabilitation procedure and dentists were the main source of information regarding it [13].

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study it was concluded that the patients preferred removable partial dentures over bridges and majority of the patients had a positive attitude towards the removable partial dentures. Also, the emphasis has been that a dentist plays a huge role in educating and motivating the patient that helps them to make a favorable decision towards the choice of prosthodontics.

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