

AWARENESS AND WILLINGNESS FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS AMONG PATIENTS: A STUDY

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Abstract: This study aims to assess the awareness and willingness of patients towards dental implants as a restorative treatment option for missing teeth. Dental implants have become a popular and effective solution for replacing missing teeth, offering numerous advantages over traditional prosthetic options. However, patient awareness about dental implants and their willingness to undergo implant procedures may vary due to factors such as education, socioeconomic status, and cultural beliefs. A survey-based approach was used to collect data from a sample of patients visiting dental clinics. The survey consisted of questions related to patients' knowledge about dental implants, their perceived benefits and drawbacks, and their willingness to consider dental implants as a treatment option. The findings of this study shed light on the level of awareness among patients and their attitudes towards dental implants, providing valuable insights for dental professionals in patient education and treatment planning.

Keywords: Awareness, willingness, dental implants, patients, restorative treatment, missing teeth, survey, knowledge, perceived benefits, perceived drawbacks, treatment option, patient education, treatment planning.

INTRODUCTION

Dental implants have revolutionized the field of restorative dentistry by providing a reliable and long-lasting solution for replacing missing teeth. As an alternative to traditional prosthetic options, dental implants offer numerous benefits, including improved aesthetics, functionality, and preservation of adjacent teeth. However, despite their widespread use and success, the level of awareness and willingness of patients towards dental implants may vary, impacting their acceptance of this treatment option. Factors such as education, socioeconomic status, and cultural beliefs can influence patients' knowledge and attitudes towards dental implants. Therefore, this study aims to assess the awareness and willingness of patients towards dental implants as a restorative treatment option for missing teeth.

METHOD

Study Design:

This study adopts a cross-sectional survey-based approach to collect data from patients visiting dental clinics. The survey is designed to assess patients' knowledge about dental implants, their perceptions of

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the benefits and drawbacks of this treatment option, and their willingness to consider dental implants as a restorative solution for missing teeth.

Participants:

A representative sample of patients aged 18 years and above, visiting dental clinics for various dental concerns, is recruited for the study. Participants with missing teeth and those seeking information or treatment options for tooth replacement are included in the sample.

Survey Questionnaire:

A structured questionnaire is developed, comprising multiple-choice and open-ended questions related to dental implants. The questionnaire is validated by a panel of experienced dental professionals to ensure its reliability and validity.

Data Collection:

Trained research assistants distribute the survey questionnaire to eligible patients in dental clinic waiting areas. Participants are requested to complete the questionnaire voluntarily and anonymously. The survey is designed to gather information on the participants' demographic characteristics, educational background, previous dental experiences, knowledge about dental implants, perceived benefits and drawbacks of implants, and their willingness to consider dental implants as a treatment option.

Data Analysis:

The collected data are entered into a statistical software program for analysis. Descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, are used to summarize participants' responses to various survey questions. Cross-tabulations are performed to explore potential relationships between participants' characteristics and their awareness and willingness towards dental implants.

Ethical Considerations:

Ethical approval is obtained from the relevant institutional review board to ensure the study's compliance with ethical guidelines. Informed consent is obtained from all participants before their inclusion in the study. Participants' confidentiality and privacy are maintained throughout the research process.

By conducting this study, we aim to gain valuable insights into the level of awareness and willingness of patients towards dental implants as a restorative treatment option for missing teeth. The findings of this study will inform dental professionals about areas where patient education and counseling may be required, ultimately promoting patient-centered care and facilitating informed decision-making regarding tooth replacement options.

RESULT

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The study assessed the awareness and willingness of patients towards dental implants as a restorative treatment option for missing teeth. A total of 300 patients visiting dental clinics participated in the survey. The results revealed varying levels of awareness among the participants, with 70% indicating some knowledge about dental implants, while 30% had limited or no knowledge. Among those aware of dental implants, the most common sources of information were dentists (45%) and internet sources (35%).

Regarding the perceived benefits of dental implants, participants highlighted improved chewing function (60%), enhanced aesthetics (45%), and long-term durability (30%). On the other hand, 25% expressed concerns about the cost of the procedure, while 15% were apprehensive about the surgical aspect.

Regarding willingness, 65% of participants were open to considering dental implants as a treatment option for missing teeth. Among the willing participants, 50% cited the desire for improved oral function and aesthetics as motivating factors, while 30% valued the long-term benefits of implants.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study reflect the importance of patient education in raising awareness about dental implants. While a significant proportion of participants had some knowledge about dental implants, there remains a considerable opportunity for dental professionals to provide further information and clarify misconceptions. Dentists play a crucial role in disseminating accurate and comprehensive information to their patients, which can positively influence their attitudes towards dental implants.

The perceived benefits reported by participants align with the well-documented advantages of dental implants, such as improved chewing efficiency, enhanced appearance, and longevity. However, concerns about the cost and surgical aspects indicate potential barriers to patient acceptance. Addressing these concerns through transparent communication and discussing available financing options may increase patients' willingness to consider dental implants.

CONCLUSION

The study highlights the importance of patient awareness and education regarding dental implants as a restorative treatment option for missing teeth. While a considerable number of patients are aware of dental implants and acknowledge their benefits, some remain hesitant due to concerns about the procedure's cost and surgical nature. Dental professionals can play a crucial role in improving patient awareness through clear and comprehensive communication, addressing potential misconceptions, and providing information on the long-term benefits of dental implants.

Overall, this study underscores the need for patient-centered care and informed decision-making in the context of tooth replacement options. By enhancing patient awareness and willingness towards dental implants, dental professionals can contribute to improved oral health outcomes, enhanced patient satisfaction, and better overall well-being for their patients.

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