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A Questionnaire Based Survey to Assess Denture Hygiene, Awareness, Attitude and Knowledge of Dental Practitioners in Sub-Urban Chennai

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Denture stomatitis is a common clinical condition occurring in removable denture wearers. It plays a huge role in patients' ability to practice every day manoeuvres like pronunciation and proper mastication of food, which can result in nutritional deprivation. Dentures usually act as a reservoir for yeasts, and this may be aggravated by poorly fitting, old dentures and inadequate oral and denture hygiene. Fungi are isolated not only from the oral cavity but also from the tissue fitting surfaces and outer surface of dentures. This is due to the high affinity of *Candida* species to adhere to, and subsequently colonize, the acrylic resin material used for making dentures. The present study is aimed to evaluate the awareness of dental practitioners about the knowledge and awareness of denture stomatitis in denture wearer patients **Materials And Methods:** 100 numbers of dental students belonging to third year, fourth year, internships of BDS were included in the study. A questionnaire has been provided and complete response has been obtained and the results tabulated. **Results:** 100 undergraduate students responded to the questionnaire. The denture practitioners were 72.4% female and 22.9% male. 31.4% recorded seeing patients with denture stomatitis. 30.5% recorded their knowledge regarding diagnosis and management of denture stomatitis. 67.6% consider erythema below removable partial denture, inflammation of palatal mucosa, scrapable white lesion is the characteristic feature of denture stomatitis. 61.9% reported denture stomatitis is non scrapable white lesion. 51.4% responded diabetes mellitus is the common metabolic illness associated with denture stomatitis. 48.6% responded anti-inflammatory drugs are associated with denture stomatitis. 69.5% responded malnutrition, poor oral hygiene, ill-fitting denture are the causative factors of denture stomatitis. 42.9% responded agar culture/CFU is the laboratory test for candidiasis. 66.7% responded Nystatin (Lozenges) is the drug used for treating denture stomatitis. 61% responded *Candida albicans* is associated with carcinogenic potential. 51.4% responded incorporating quaternary ammonium methacrylate in denture base resins as recent advances of management in candidiasis. 46.7% responded regarding successful management of denture stomatitis. 75.2% responded *Candida albicans* as associated with denture stomatitis. 49.5% responded chlorhexidine and Nystatin mouthwashes is used for denture stomatitis. 43.8% responded Vitamin B2, B3, B6, B9 causes denture stomatitis **Conclusion:** This survey concludes that undergraduate students have adequate knowledge regarding the denture hygiene, awareness, attitude and knowledge of denture stomatitis.

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