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Feeding challenges to the parents of Cleft lip and palate Infants in North Indian population: An original research

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Abstract:

Cleft lip and/or palate is seen as one of the most common congenital anomalies which causes many complications such as impaired suckling, defective speech, deafness, malocclusion, gross facial deformity, and severe psychological problems. Providing nourishment to the cleft lip and/or palate neonate is the first priority of the parents. The problem of providing nourishment can be corrected by feeding plates which temporarily obturate the cleft area and help in producing a proper seal, hence adequate feeding can be achieved. However caregivers of the cleft lip and palate infants should have apt knowledge about the feeding challenges so that they can visit for a specialist consultation for proper health and appropriate nutrition of the infant. This study was conducted to estimate the awareness about feeding plates in the caregivers of cleft lip and /or plate infants. This study was conducted in Dr. Z.A dental college, A.M.U., Aligarh in collaboration with DEIC (District Early Intervention Centre). Parents of children with cleft lip and/or palate were given questionnaires and the responses to the questionnaires were studied and analysed. 30 Parents took part in the study. The study yielded the result that most of the parents were curious to know about the feeding plates and were much interested to know more about them. The study concluded that the early intervention of feeding plates will result in more suitable outcome for these patients and there is requirement to increase awareness regarding role of Prosthodontics during rehabilitation of cleft patients.

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