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A questionnaire based survey on awareness of the use of maxilla-facial prosthesis among dental practitioners

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ABSTRACT:

Statement of the Problem: Maxillofacial prosthetics are vital for enhancing the quality of life in patients with facial defects. However, the level of awareness and knowledge about these prostheses among dental practitioners is unclear, which could affect timely and appropriate referrals for such treatments.

Purpose: This study aimed to assess the awareness, knowledge, and involvement of dental practitioners in the use of maxillofacial prostheses and identify the factors influencing their practices and willingness to pursue further education in this area.

Material method: A descriptive cross-sectional web-based study was done amongst general practitioners. A total of 154 participants responded in survey through web-based questionnaire; which composed of 15 open and multiple-choice questions. After completion of data collection, it was analyzed using descriptive analysis.

Result: A total of 154 responses were obtained in the study, out of which 32.9% were private practitioners (BDS), 27.1% were prosthodontics, and 60% were other specialties that know about maxillofacial prosthesis (fig. 1). 40.4% were very familiar and 54.5% were somewhat familiar with

maxillofacial prosthesis (fig. 3). 43.2% of the treated patients who require the maxillofacial prosthesis while remaining are referred to the specialist. 25.3% responded for silicone, 23.4% for acrylic copolymer, and 19.9% for acrylic resin, while 60% responded that all of the above materials are used for maxillofacial prosthesis. 71% responded they were aware of the new technologies (CAD-CAM), while the remaining 28% were not aware of any recent technology.

Conclusion: The study highlights the need for enhanced education and training programs to improve dental practitioners' competency in maxillofacial prosthetics. Increased collaboration between dental practitioners and maxillofacial prosthetics is essential for comprehensive patient care.

Key words: maxillofacial prosthesis, 3D printing, maxillofacial prosthodontist, maxillofacial defects.

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