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## Anterior loop of mental nerve and its clinical significance in implant prosthodontics- A systematic review

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Proper knowledge about the anterior loop is very important to avert any injury to the neurovascular bundle during implant placement in the interforaminal region of the mandible.

### Materials and methods:

A comprehensive search of Medline/Pubmed and Cochrane database was done. The focused question was the presence of anterior loop (including loop length) of mental nerve in CBCT images of the various subjects. Articles related to the presence of anterior loop (including loop length) were only included.

### Results:

The initial research yielded 3482 articles, after removing the duplicates which resulted in 3430 articles. 3378 articles were further excluded after screening the abstracts which resulted in 52 studies. 8 studies were excluded for not fulfilling the inclusion criteria and finally, 44 relevant articles were selected for this review.

### Conclusion:

Based on the articles that assessed anterior loop of mental nerve there are variations found in the prevalence, length, gender, and side distribution of anterior loop in various populations. This review highly recommends not relying on any average values and the clinician should compulsorily make use of imaging modalities available in each and every case, wherever surgical procedure is to be performed near mental foramen region.

**Keywords:** Anterior loop, Cone beam computed tomography, Mental nerve, Computed Tomography.

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