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Attitude of Patients towards Various Prosthodontic Treatment Modalities: Insights from Patients In Prosthodontics Department In Dental College In Gujarat

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Abstract

Statement of Problem:

Tooth loss negatively affects mastication, aesthetics, and psychological well-being. Despite advances in prosthodontic treatment, many patients delay or avoid replacement of missing teeth due to inadequate awareness, financial constraints, and misconceptions regarding available treatment options. Understanding patient attitudes is essential for improving prosthodontic service utilization.

Objectives:

To evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, and preferences of patients regarding replacement of missing teeth and to identify factors influencing acceptance and type of prosthodontic treatment.

Methods:

A cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey was conducted among 50 patients aged >20 years with at least one missing tooth (excluding third molars) attending a prosthodontic department. A validated 16-item questionnaire assessed awareness of treatment modalities, reasons for replacement or non-replacement, and preferred prosthodontic options. Descriptive statistical analysis was performed using frequency distribution.

Results:

Most participants (56%) had multiple missing teeth, caries (38%) and periodontal diseases (36%) were the primary cause of tooth loss. Financial constraints (38%) and lack of time (32%) were the most common barriers for not replacing teeth. A majority of participants preferred fixed prostheses (78%), with greater inclination toward tooth-supported restorations compared to implants.

Conclusion:

Although awareness and willingness to replace missing teeth were moderately high, financial limitations, lack of time and insufficient knowledge about advanced prosthetic options remain major barriers. Patient education and affordable treatment strategies are essential to improve prosthodontic treatment uptake.

Keywords:

Tooth loss; Prosthodontic awareness; Replacement of missing teeth; Patient attitude; Fixed prosthesis; Dental implants.

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