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Association of Oral Stereognostic Ability, Salivary Flow and Masticatory Effectiveness in Conventional Complete Denture Wearers: An in Vivo Study

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ABSTRACT:

Aim: To Evaluate the association between Oral Stereognostic Ability, Salivary Flow and Masticatory Effectiveness in Conventional Complete Denture Wearers.

Materials and Methodology: A study consisting of 32 completely edentulous patients were included in study. Oral stereognostic ability tests were conducted with test pieces of 12 different shaped forms and the answers were recorded. The Salivary Flow was measured with paraffin wax. For masticatory effectiveness was evaluated with the pre-weighted chewing gums. The study was conducted in two parts. First, before the denture insertion, all three parameters were measured and patients were recalled after 6 months and the same tests were performed again.

Result: Paired t-test was performed to compare data before and after wearing dentures and Pearson correlation was performed to evaluate correlation. A highly statistically significant difference was obtained between Oral Stereognostic Ability, Salivary Flow and Masticatory Effectiveness before and after 6 months of follow up period; ($p < 0.0001$). There is no or negligible correlation between the Oral Stereognostic Ability and Salivary Flow ($r = 0.0091$) and Salivary Flow and Masticatory Effectiveness ($r = 0.1138$). It shows moderate positive correlation between the Oral Stereognostic Ability and Masticatory Effectiveness ($r = 0.3297$).

Conclusion: Within the limitation of this study, it was concluded that the Oral Stereognostic Ability, Salivary Flow and Masticatory Effectiveness in the Conventional Complete Denture wearers are improved after wearing of denture. Among the components of study, Oral Stereognostic Ability and Masticatory Effectiveness are positively correlated.

Key Words: Oral Stereognostic Ability, Salivary Flow, Masticatory Effectiveness, Complete Denture wearers.

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