

Knowledge and awareness about dental implants as replacement of missing teeth among a small population in Anantnag

Dr. Shahzaib Nasti. (Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon),

Dr. Shaeed Rashid(Orthodontist)

Corresponding Author: Dr. Shahzaib Nasti

Abstract

Aim

The aim of the study was to assess the awareness of the patients regarding dental implants as an option for tooth replacement including knowledge about it and standpoint towards it amongst a small population in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir, India.

Materials and Methods:

Information was obtained from an adult population through a door to door cross sectional survey.

Results:

Response was received from 1000 people, 5% of respondents felt well informed about the dental implant treatment. 5% of the population was poorly informed about the implants while as 90 % of the population had no idea about what a dental implant is.

Conclusion:

10% of the district population was aware of dental implant as an alternative for replacing missing teeth. Necessary efforts and measures should be made to raise the awareness of dental implant treatment in the country.

Keywords: Awareness, standpoint, dental implants.

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I. Introduction

An artificial root like screw that is surgically inserted into the jawbone to support a single or multiple teeth or any maxillofacial prosthesis.

A dental implant has become increasingly popular[1,2] as majority of patients treated with implant-supported prosthesis have reported improvement in their quality of life, assurance, self-confidence[3] including psychological satisfaction and moreover the tooth structure adjacent to the teeth to be replaced is always preserved. Currently, dental implants are widely accepted as a prosthetic treatment of completely or partially edentulous patients..[4]

The attitude of the population towards dental implants are less known. Several studies have been conducted to show the patients' awareness about implants in different countries. Pommer *et al.* reported 79% of the Austrian population preferred dental implants.[1] A survey from Sweden in 1999, reported a rise in interest towards implant treatment to 95% over a period of 10 years.[5,6] Chowdhary *et al.* reported that the level of awareness of 23.24% in 2010 which is way higher than our study.[7] As demonstrated by Zimmer *et al.* in 1992 a general positive attitude toward oral implant therapy and high level of awareness was seen which is almost completely opposite to our findings.[8]

Dental Implants is a popular treatment option with a high success rate. Improved oral health related quality of life has become a truth after the arrival of dental implants. Implant supported prosthesis has been accepted and rated as a positive experience by patients who have undergone implant treatment.[7,9] Many studies have been done in different parts of the world with regards to the awareness of dental implants as a treatment option. Thus, the aim of the study was to assess the awareness of the patients regarding implant-retained prosthesis as an option for tooth replacement including source of information and attitude towards it.[10]

II. Materials And Methods

Door to door survey was conducted through a printed questionnaire composing of multiple questions with the intention of evaluating dental implant awareness among the population in district Anantnag of Jammu

and Kashmir (India) 2018 (July to October). A random sampling method with convenient sample size was used. Questionnaire was prepared both in English, Urdu and Kashmiri(local language) to facilitate completion and to get better understanding of the questions by the respondents’.

Most of the adult population with history of dental treatment were included in the study. All the respondents were informed about the aims and objectives of the study. Complete population was willing to give informed consent. For the purpose of the study the population was grouped according to:

Gender: Male/Female

Age: 18 years and above

III. Results

Based on the 1000 responses retrieved, only 10% of the respondents felt well informed about dental implant treatment.

Table 1

Do u know what a dental implant is??

Answer	Number	%age
yes	100	10%
No	800	80%

Among the 1000 respondents, 5% were well informed, 5% were poorly informed. 80 % (800) of the respondents were willing to consider dental implant treatment if needed whereas 20% (200) refused for it. The 80% population who thought the implant to be a good alternative were willing to know more through print media, social networking, health journals etc.

IV. Discussion

Implant supported prosthesis has become a successful and well accepted treatment modality with many advantages over the conventional prosthetic techniques. Among the 1000 respondents in the present study, majority of those who had heard of dental implants were amongst the 18-50 year age group. This can be attributed to the increased interest in dental treatment amongst the younger generation and changing attitudes towards the advancements in the field of dentistry.[7,10] Factors such as awareness coupled with income and age were the highlights of this research. Chowdhary *et al.*,[7] that stated that the population in the age groups of 18 to 50 years with a college or university education were more aware of dental implants which is quite similar to the findings in our study. In the present study, among the different options to rehabilitate missing tooth, 10% knew about dental implants as a treatment option. The results of the present study were very much different from those reported by Zimmer *et al.*[8] and Berge *et al.*[11] which reported high level of awareness as 77% and 70.1% respectively.

Dentists were the main source of information as stated by 10% of the population followed by relatives and friends, internet, someone who has received an implant, newspapers or magazines. This is in agreement with Pommer *et al.*,[1] Chowdhary *et al.*,[7] Satpathy *et al.*,[12] all of which stated dentists as the main source of information. It becomes essential to spread awareness about dental implant treatment, most importantly by means of effective communication between patients and their dentists and other options such as health related articles in newspapers or health magazines. As dentist were found to be the major information source, dental education must include suitable information related to the advantages and disadvantages of implants.

Unaffordability, long treatment period and need for surgery were the main drawbacks of the implant treatment according to patients. These results were consistent with the other American and Japanese studies which reported the similar results.[8,13] As high costs was the main reason not to choose implant therapy, it is vital to highlight the patients that quality of life overshadows high cost of implants. The benefits and drawbacks of different types of treatment modalities should be properly explained so they can make a learned choice.

V. Conclusion

Considering the results of our study, it is very important to raise the awareness of dental implant treatment. This study among population in Anantnag highlighted that most of the population was unaware about using dental implants as an option for replacing missing teeth. As dentists were the main sources of information regarding dental implants, further efforts are required to raise awareness in order to promote good quality of living amongst people. Most of the patients found dental implants treatment to be expensive and unaffordable; the practitioners should try to make the availability of dental implants at low costs as much possible. The dentist as a professional has the foremost role to play in this regard.

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