

Assessment of Knowledge Related to Implant Dentistry in Dental Practitioners of Patna, Bihar

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ABSTRACT

Background: Dental implants are becoming a popular choice replacing the missing teeth. In spite of the progress made in implant dentistry since its inception, there have been some loopholes in scientific based knowledge and established clinical experience amongst dental practitioners. The aim of the present study was conducted to assess the knowledge related to implant dentistry in dental practitioners of Patna, Bihar. **Methods:** The present cross sectional study was carried out among 104 private dental practitioners to assess the knowledge related to implant dentistry in dental practitioners of Patna. A multiple choice questionnaire was given to 104 private dental practitioners to answer. The questions were about some basic knowledge in dental implants and to assess practitioner's views and opinion regarding dental implant practice. **Results:** 75.96% dental practitioners were aware about dental implants and various systems in dental implants. 47.11% were aware regarding surgical technique in placing technique. 32.69% were aware about distance between two implants when placed adjacent to each other. 32.69% dental practitioners were aware about safe distance of dental implant from natural teeth. 65.38% said that dental implants can be placed in smokers, diabetic patients, patients with poor oral hygiene, and patients prone to dental caries. 30.76% were aware about additional surgical procedures performed to enhance successful implant placements such as bone grafting and sinus lift procedures. 35.57% were aware about immediate and delayed implant placement. 37.5% were aware about loading protocols such as immediate loading, early loading, and delayed loading. 28.84% dental practitioners practice dental implants in their practice. 65.38% dental practitioners present implant as a treatment option to their patients in replacing lost teeth. **Conclusion:** Our study concluded that knowledge about implant dentistry is still limited among dental practitioners. Knowledge regarding implant dentistry can be increased by organising various CDE programmes and workshops.

Keywords: Implant, dental implantology, practitioners.

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INTRODUCTION

Dental implantology is the field of dentistry that is concerned with the replacement of missing teeth and their supporting structures with artificial prostheses anchored to the jawbone. Modern implants consist of an osseous part that interacts with the bone, a transmucosal component that interacts with the mucosa and then the restoration; this can be a crown or bridge abutment, or anchors for dentures. The materials used commonly for implants include commercially pure titanium, titanium alloys or occasionally ceramic materials (e.g. zirconium dioxide or aluminum oxide). Surfaces are normally roughened (microporous) through use of surface preparation (e.g. sand blasting and acid etching)

rather than being coated to increase the surface area available for osseointegration.^[1] Implant dentistry has evolved into the mainstream of restorative practices all over the world.^[2] It has mainly two phases; a surgical phase and a prosthodontic phase. For centuries, there were ways to replace the crown but not the root but root replacement is now possible.^[3] Because of the advantages like stability, increased retention, functional efficiency and better quality of patient's life, dental implants provide the best long term results and therefore has become the best treatment option available these days to replace the missing teeth.^[4] In addition to the dentists' attitude, economic considerations may also impact on the care provided to the patients. The dentists' knowledge and attitude toward a treatment modality can itself significantly influence treatment decision-making and ultimately "shape" how oral health care is provided and become the norm.^[5] Therefore, the present study was conducted to assess the the

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knowledge related to implant dentistry in dental practitioners of Patna, Bihar.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The present cross sectional study was carried out among 104 private dental practitioners to assess the knowledge related to implant dentistry in dental practitioners of Patna, Bihar. A multiple choice questionnaire was given to 104 private dental practitioners to answer. The questions were about some basic knowledge in dental implants and to assess practitioner's views and opinion regarding dental implant practice.

RESULTS

In the present study total participating dental practitioners were 104. 75.96% dental practitioners were aware about dental implants and various

systems in dental implants. 47.11% were aware regarding surgical technique in placing technique. 32.69% were aware about distance between two implants when placed adjacent to each other. 32.69% dental practitioners were aware about safe distance of dental implant from natural teeth. 65.38% said that dental implants can be placed in smokers, diabetic patients, patients with poor oral hygiene, and patients prone to dental caries. 30.76% were aware about additional surgical procedures performed to enhance successful implant placements such as bone grafting and sinus lift procedures. 35.57% were aware about immediate and delayed implant placement. 37.5% were aware about loading protocols such as immediate loading, early loading, and delayed loading. 28.84% dental practitioners practice dental implants in their practice. 65.38% dental practitioners present implant as a treatment option to their patients in replacing lost teeth.

Table 1: Questions regarding implants dentistry

Questions regarding implants dentistry	Answers	
	Yes n(%)	No n(%)
Are you aware about dental implants and various systems in dental implants?	79(75.96%)	25(24.03%)
Are you aware about the following?		
surgical technique in placing implants	49(47.11%)	55(52.88%)
about distance between two implants when placed adjacent to each other	34(32.69%)	70(67.30%)
about safe distance of dental implant from natural teeth	34(32.69%)	70(67.30%)
Can you place dental implants in smokers, diabetic patients, patients with poor oral hygiene, and patients prone to dental caries?	68(65.38%)	36(34.61%)
Are you aware about additional surgical procedures performed to enhance successful implant placements such as bone grafting and sinus lift procedures?	32(30.76%)	72(69.23%)
Are you aware about immediate and delayed implant placement?	37(35.57%)	67(64.42%)
Are you aware about loading protocols such as immediate loading, early loading, and delayed loading?	39(37.5%)	65(62.5%)
Do you practice dental implants in your practice?	30(28.84%)	74(71.15%)
Do you present implant as a treatment option to your patients in replacing lost teeth?	68(65.38%)	36(34.61%)

DISCUSSION

Dental implantology is fast becoming a specialty in the field of dentistry.^[6] The absence of natural teeth is a health problem which not only results in compromised function but it also has a great impact on esthetics and psychological well-being of a patient.^[7] With rapidly growing use of dental implants, dental graduates may encounter more patients with dental implants. The monitoring and maintenance of those implants may then fall upon general dental practitioner.^[8] General practitioner should have the ability to maintain these implants and recognize associated pathology if present.^[9]

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Nagappa et al., 2016 conducted a study in Navi Mumbai in which above 75% of the Private Dental Practitioners were practicing implant dentistry.¹⁰

Butterworth et al., 2001 carried out a study in UK wherein only 49.5% of consultants provided implant retained restorations in UK.^[11]

Another survey of European dental schools conducted to determine the curricular structure, teaching philosophies, and materials used in undergraduate implant dentistry courses found that

undergraduate implant dentistry educational programs varied from school to school, yet a large percentage of schools agreed on certain topics, including the importance of including implant education in undergraduate dental programs.^[2]

Chaudhary et al. 2013 concluded that most of the graduate Private Dental Practitioners were not practicing implant dentistry due to lack of skills. This indicates a need to revise undergraduate dental curriculum at various dental schools to improve the knowledge and thus practice of implant dentistry.^[13]

A study conducted by Eckert et al. in 2012 where it was observed that younger prosthodontists expressed a greater desire to surgically place implants.^[14] This clearly shows that people who have long been in the dental profession still prefer conventional methods as a choice for the replacement of missing teeth.

CONCLUSION

Our study concluded that knowledge about implant dentistry is still limited among dental practitioners. Knowledge regarding implant dentistry can be increased by organising various CDE programmes and workshops.

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