

Knowledge and awareness of dental implants among undergraduate dental students

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Abstract

Introduction: As we know that students doing graduation in dentistry will be future dentists, they should have thorough knowledge about latest technologies in dentistry for treatment of missing teeth. It is the responsibility of these budding dentists for educating the common man about new technologies in dentistry. Thus this study was done to find that how many dental students know about dental implants.

Materials and Methods: Our study was a cross-sectional one to find out how many dental students were aware about dental implants from first and second year of a tertiary care Dental College and Research Institute at Bahadurgarh, Haryana. A total of 200 dental students were included in the study. Self-explanatory questionnaire forms which included 5 questions about implants were used for evaluation. Percentage of different responses was calculated to show the results.

Results: The present study gives information about dental undergraduates of first and second year students' knowledge and awareness about dental implants for the treatment of missing teeth. Out of a total of 200 students, 187 returned the completely filled questionnaire. Out of them only 11(5.88%) did not know about implants, rest 176 (94.12%) were aware of implants. Out of these 176 subjects the rest of the questions were asked and percentage calculated as depicted in table.

Conclusion: After conducting the present study, it is recommended that the knowledge about dental implants in the curriculum of first and second year dental students needs to be increased, if we want the future dentists to be well informed and confident regarding dental implant therapy.

Keywords: Implants, knowledge, awareness, missing teeth.

Introduction

There are many treatment techniques available for the replacement of missing teeth. The prime emphasis is to maintain normal function, speech, esthetics and health of the patient. In the last few years, the treatment of missing teeth has been changed many folds due to the frequent use of dental implants in rehabilitation of partially or completely edentulous patients.¹ Implants are becoming indispensable part of dentistry nowadays because of its success and predictability in esthetic, functional rehabilitation and long-term successful outcomes.¹⁻³ Significant improvement in the quality of life related to oral health has been noticed in patients who preferred dental implants as a treatment modality for replacement of missing teeth over other techniques.⁴

In the current scenario, dental implants are routinely used in dentistry for replacing missing teeth, but dental practitioners are still lacking the thorough knowledge about implants in dentistry. In spite of the excellent clinical outcomes of dental implants, the basic knowledge and information about fundamentals of dental implants is still missing among the first and second year dental students.^{5,6}

Though dental implant as a modality of treatment for missing teeth is an optional one, patients must be provided with complete information about dental implants and their uses to give their consent about the treatment.¹ The general population is educated by modern day healthcare providers about latest treating modalities in the field of dentistry/medicine. Awareness

among the undergraduate dental/medical students regarding any new update in their field will supplement the above said purpose. Awareness among the undergraduate dental students regarding dental implants can help in removing any kind of fear regarding this procedure among general population due to lack of adequate information.⁷

Since these undergraduate dental students will be future dentists, they should have thorough knowledge about latest technologies in dentistry as implant treatment. Thus this study was conducted aiming to determine knowledge and level of awareness about dental implants amongst the first and second year dental students of a tertiary Dental College at Bahadurgarh, Haryana.

Materials and Methods

Our study was a cross-sectional one to find out how many dental students were aware about dental implants from first and second year of a tertiary care Dental College at Bahadurgarh, Haryana. A total of two hundred students of First and Second year BDS program were selected randomly for this study. 200 self-explanatory questionnaire forms which included 5 questions about implants were distributed among the students out of which 187 returned the completely filled questionnaires. Thus the results were calculated from the data collected from 187 students.

Results

The present study gives information about dental undergraduates of first and second year student's knowledge and awareness about dental implants for the treatment of missing teeth in prosthodontic department

of a tertiary care Dental College of Bahadurgarh Haryana. Out of a total of 200 students 187 returned the completely filled questionnaire. Table shows the response of these students for different question asked.

Table 1: Survey Data

Questionnaire	Categories	Response: n (%)
Are you aware of the implant therapy as an alternative for missing teeth?	Yes	176 (94.22)
	No	11 (5.88)
If yes, do you have the knowledge of implant placement procedure	Yes	142 (80.68)
	No	34 (19.31)
Lifespan of implants	<10 years	98 (55.68)
	10-20 years	33 (18.75)
	No Idea/Don't Know	47 (26.70)
What should be the minimum amount payable for implant treatment?	5000	46 (26.13)
	10000	103 (58.52)
	>15000	27 (15.34)
Source of information of implants	Dentists	53 (30.11)
	TV/Newspaper	81 (46.02)
	Others	42 (23.86)

Discussion

Since the introduction of the concept of osseointegration in dentistry, the dental implants treatment has become quite popular for the replacement of the lost or missing teeth.⁵ In developed countries, dental implant therapy is becoming popular among patients and dentists with the help of various education and health related programs⁶ while the scenario is quite different in developing countries like India. Despite the success of implant therapy, the implant procedures are neglected in undergraduate dental curriculum, as a result of this, the dental students are lacking knowledge about dental implants.

The goal of this study was to know the awareness about dental implants amongst undergraduate dental students. A total of two hundred students were included in the survey and questionnaires were distributed among them. Only 187 out of 200 returned the duly filled forms.

In response to first question whether they know about implant therapy as a method of replacement of missing teeth, 176(94%) answered in a yes while 11(5.88%) said they don't know about implants. When asked about the knowledge regarding procedure of implant placements, 142(80.68%) answered in a yes while 34(19.31%) said they don't know much about the procedure of implant placement.

Question regarding the source of information of implants, 81(46%) students answered they got to know about dental implants from Television, reading newspapers or through net, which is in accordance with the study conducted by Saxena et al⁸ on the

contrary study done by Kaurani et al³ reported that dentists were the main source of information about dental implants however direct comparisons could not be made as this study was conducted on patients. Maximum students opined for print and electronic media as main source of information shows that there is increased access to internet among students.

When asked about lifespan of implants, 98(55.68%) students answered it would be less than 10 years which is contrary to Saxena et al⁸ in which 14.37% said it would be less than 10 years. 33 students (18.75%) said implants last from 10-20 years while 47(26.70%) said they don't have any idea about the lifespan of implants.

The cost of implants is a major key factor in this type of treating modality. When asked about the approximate cost of implant treatment, 46 students (26.13%) said should be around 5000 INR while 103(58.52%) said they think 10000 INR would be approximate cost for dental implants while only 27(15.34%) believed implant treatment should cost more than 15000 INR.

Conclusion

After conducting the present study, it is found that knowledge regarding dental implants in the course of undergraduate dentistry needs to be increased if we want the future dentists to be well informed and confident regarding dental implant therapy. This study suggested that there is a need for more structured teaching program about dental implants for treating missing teeth.

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