

An analysis of dental treatments rendered by undergraduates at ajman university to patients from fujairah, UAE

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Abstract

Objectives: This study undertaken to highlight the dental treatments delivered by undergraduate students at Ajman University to patients from Fujairah and to examine the relationship between ages, gender, and the types of dental treatments.

Materials and Methods: A total of 650 dental records were selected from 6000 dental records of patients who had received dental treatment in the Dental Clinic, College of Dentistry, Ajman University(AU)-Fujairah Campus, between academic year, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

Results: The combination of restorative treatments (composite, amalgam and glass ionomer) adds up to 34.4%, of the total services received by patients, followed by 21.6% scaling & polishing, 15.5% extraction and 13.47% endodontic procedures. The combination of preventive treatments 4.2%, pediatric treatments, add up to 5.5% and prosthetic treatments contributed for 5.4%. Using the SPSS, Regression option. It was found that no significant regression between the gender and the treatments (sign = 0.699), but there was a significant regression between the age and the treatments (sign = 0.00). Chi-square test shows a significant association (sign=0.0) between age groups and removable prosthetic dominant at age group (32-44 years). There is, a significant association between age groups, and the following dental treatments: fluoride, fissure sealants, space-maintainer, pulp-therapy, stainless steel crown and glass-ionomers dominant at age group (6-18 years). No association between gender & types of dental treatments.

Conclusion: The study demonstrates the types and amount of dental treatments given to patients from Fujairah by undergraduate dental student as part of their clinical training program through, Dental School's clinic, Ajman University- Fujairah campus. Further large-scale study to assess the quality and patients' satisfaction regarding the treatments provided by undergraduate students is highly recommended.

Keywords: Dental treatments, Dental school's clinic, Undergraduate students.

Introduction

Dental schools continue to strive for the most effective ways to provide clinical education for the students. In this respect, it is important that each student should gain the necessary experience of routine dentistry both in adults and in children before they qualify and start practicing independently. Both private and public sectors provide oral healthcare, in many countries (Nikolovsk 2013). Colleges of Dentistry both in public and private universities provide free and paid dental treatments to the patients attending their Clinics as part of the students training program (Wanyonyi KL, 2017, Ephrem 2018). In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), both private and public sectors are responsible for providing dental services. College of Dentistry, Ajman University- Fujairah, UAE delivers free dental services as part of the training program for dental students, where the fourth and fifth-year undergraduate students treat patients who have diverse needs. Most of the treatments provided by the dental school are routine dentistry that would usually be provided by a general dentist. A qualified dentist or senior staff always supervises students during their clinical training.

This study is conducted to highlight the aspects of dental treatments delivered by undergraduate students at Ajman University to patients from Fujairah and to examine the relationship between age, gender, and types of dental treatments.

Materials and Methods

Ethics approval for this research obtained from the institutional ethical review committee, Ajman University (AU). Ref. #2017-FJ-DN-03. A total of 650 dental records was randomly selected from 6000 dental records of patients who had received dental treatment in the Dental Clinic, College of Dentistry, Ajman University(AU), Fujairah Campus, between the academic years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. The size of study sample was determined using Cochran's formula at 95% confidence. Using the random table generated by Microsoft Excel, the records for 650 patients were then randomly selected. After all the dental records to be included in this study were chosen and retrieved from the archives. The following types of dental treatments: Composite restorations, amalgam restorations, glass ionomer restorations, fixed prosthetic treatments, removable prosthetic treatment, endodontic treatments, extractions treatments, fluoride treatments, fissure sealants treatment, pulp therapy treatments and stainless steel crowns treatments were extracted from the patient's dental records, coded and recorded in Microsoft excel sheet.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses of the data performed using SPSS 17. The SPSS Regression option was used to examine the

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relation between dental treatments, age, and gender. Chi-square (χ^2) test at a level of significant $\alpha = 0.05$ was also used to determine statistically significant differences between dental treatments, each of the Age Groups, and Gender. Phi- Coefficient was used to test the strength of the association.

Results

Results obtained from this study are based on the treatment progressive sheet of the patients' records. Females (273) comprised 42% of the sample and males (377) were 58%. Data on 650 dental patient's records from Microsoft Excel sheet transferred to the Statistical Package of social science (SPSS). Percentages of each type of dental treatment shown in Fig. 1. reveals that 27.59% of the treatment provided was a composite restoration, followed by 21.61% scaling and polishing, 15.47% extractions, 13.47 pulp therapy endodontic treatment and the remaining 21% includes, amalgam restoration, fixed prosthesis, removal prosthesis, fluoride treatment, fissure sealants, space maintainers, stainless crown and glass-ionomer restorations. The combination of restorative Treatments(composite, amalgam and glass ionomer) adds up to 34.4%, of the total treatment received by patients, followed by 21.6% scaling &polishing, 15.5% extraction and 14.5% endodontic procedures. The combination of preventive treatments (fluoride& fissure sealants) add up 4.2%. Pediatric treatments (pulp therapy,

space maintainers and stainless steel crown) add up to 5.5% and prosthetic treatments (fixed & removable) contributed for 5.4%. Using SPSS, Regression option, it was found that there was no significant regression between gender and the treatments (sign = 0.699). However there was a significant regression between the age and the treatments (sign = 0.00). To know which age group dominant a certain treatment, data regrouped based on age and gender (Table 1). Chi-square test (Table 2) was used. It shows a significant association (sign=0.0) and it is a moderate (Phi=0.0224) between age groups and removable prosthetic dominant at age group (32-44 years). There is also a significant association between age groups, dominant at age group (6-18years), and the following dental Treatments:

1. Fluoride (sign = 0.0) and it is a strong (Phi= 0.505),
2. Fissure Sealants (sign =0.0) and it is a strong (Phi=0.531),
3. Space- maintainer (sign = 0.0) and it is a moderate (Phi = 0.228),
4. Pulp-therapy (sign =0.0) and it is a strong (Phi = 0.511),
5. Stainless steel Crown (sign =0.0) and it is a strong (Phi = 0.476), and
6. Glass-ionomers (sign = 0.00) and it is a moderate (Phi = 0.283).

No association between gender & types of dental treatments (Table 3).

Table 1: Gender and age group

Gender	Age Group				
	Group 6-18	Group 19-31	Group 32-44	Group 45-57	Group 58-70
	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Female	53	119	87	14	0
Male	71	165	126	11	7

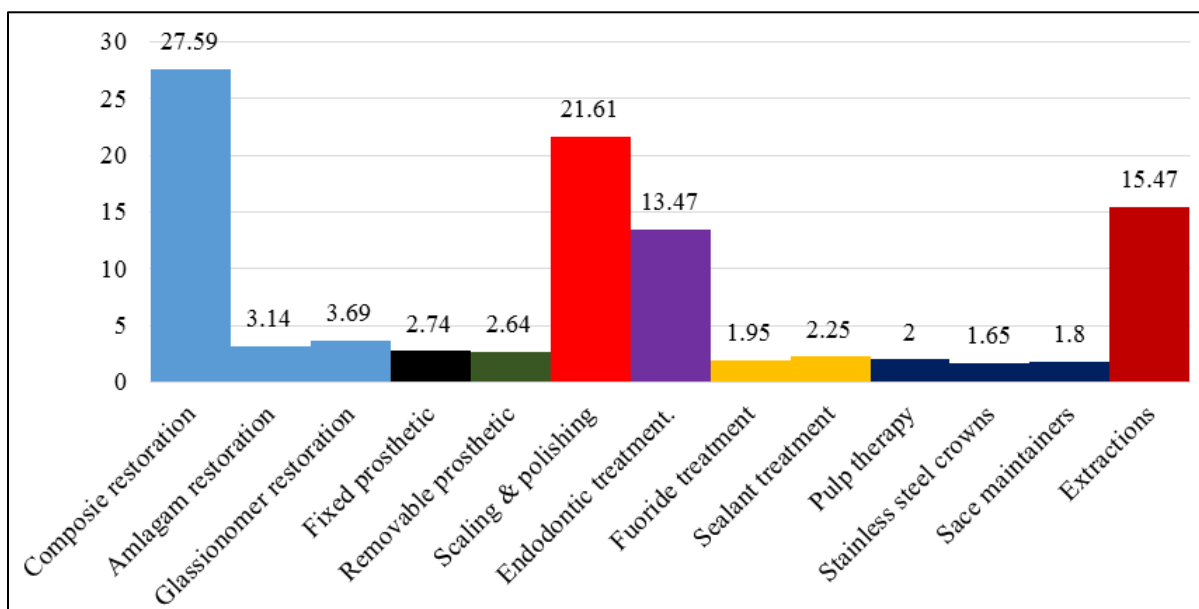


Fig. 1: Percentage of each type of dental treatment.

Table 2: Chi-square test (Treatments vs age groups)

Treatment procedure	Age Groups					Chi-square P-value	Phi-value
	6-18 yrs.	19-31 yrs.	32-44 yrs.	45-57 yrs.	58-70 yrs.		
Composite restoration	19.15	43.67	32.91	3.64	0.63	0.583	0.066
Amalgam Restoration	12.7	39.68	41.27	4.76	1.59	0.342	0.083
Extraction	17.74	44.19	32.9	4.84	0.32	0.589	0.066
Fixe prosthetics	9.09	47.27	40	3.64	0.0	0.325	0.085
Removable Prosthetic	9.43	26.42	47.17	13.21	3.77	0.0	0.225
Fluoride	97.44	0.0	0.0	2.56	0.0	0.0	0.505
Fissure sealants	95.56	2.22	2.22	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.531
Scaling and polishing	21.02	43.19	32.56	2.77	0.46	0.134	0.104
Space Maintainer	52.78	11.11	36.11	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.228
Endodontic treatment	16.3	42.96	35.56	3.7	1.48	0.07	0.116
Pulp therapy	97.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.511
Stainless steel crown	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.476
Glass Ionomers	50	28.38	18.92	2.7	0	0	0.283

Table 3: Chi-square, test (Treatments vs gender)

Treatment procedures	Gender		Chi-square P-value
	Female	Male	
Compo-Rest	41.61	58.39	0.333
Amalgam-Restoration	42.86	57.14	0.894
Extraction	40.32	59.68	0.426
Fixed- prosthetic	47.27	52.73	0.476
Removable-Prosthetic	37.74	62.26	0.563
Fluoride	46.15	53.85	0.618
Fissure-Sealants	46.67	53.33	0.601
Scaling-Polishing	40.88	59.12	0.534
Space- Maintainer	52.78	47.22	0.224
Endo-Treatment	41.48	58.52	0.872
Pulp-Therapy	42.5	57.5	1.0
Stainless Steel Crown	42.42	57.58	1.0
Glass Ionomers	36.49	63.51	0.32

Discussion

Oral health care in UAE is delivered mainly by federal Government organizations, non-governmental organizations and private practitioners. Ajman University (AU) is a Non-governmental organization, contributing to people's oral health, through its dental clinics as part of the student-training program. Fourth and third year students, College of Dentistry, AU provide dental treatments to adult and children patients who are usually selected at the through screening process that determines whether the patient is a teaching case for students. The patient who is suitable for a teaching is assigned to a student within a particular group practice. All ages and genders have benefited from free dental services. Most of the treatment provided by the Dental School's clinic is routine dentistry. A qualified dentist or senior staff always supervise students performing clinic treatments. It is generally recognized that the care provided by the teaching clinics is inefficient. However, in the last quarter of the twentieth century, dental school clinics began to pay more attention to how treatment rendered (Formicola 2008). Dental school clinics are

becoming more competitive in an effort to provide a solid financial base for the schools addition to their traditional educational mission (Sulski 1995).

Analysis of the result demonstrated a diversity in dental treatments that patients had received. Clinical examinations and restorative treatments were found to be the most common types of provided dental care. This correlates with other studies where graduates felt well prepared in many areas of restorative dentistry (Smith 2010a, Smith 2010b, Perez 2010) and, Yiu CK 2012), that may be linked to the amount of time spent in restorative dentistry as an undergraduate. This is followed by scaling and polishing, extraction and endodontic treatment, pediatric procedures, (including, pulp therapy, stainless steel crown and glass ionomer), preventive treatments (fluoride& fissure sealants), and prosthetic replacement. These findings reflect the undergraduate clinical training program, in which all types of the routine dental treatments conducted by various departments as a training program for undergraduates. A combination of restorative, endodontic and extraction treatments reflects the extent of teeth damage among the patients. There existed significant association between

certain dental treatment and age group dominant at age group (6-18) that all these types of treatment either pediatric dental treatment or preventive treatment which both are common at this age group. The significant association between removable prosthetic and age group, dominant at age group (32-44), indicates that this age group suffers loss of teeth that may require more replacement either by partial or complete dentures. The fact that faculty-assisting students in planning and performing various dental treatments led to a measure of criteria standardization. This could be a strength to this study and advantage may not be available outside dental school clinics. Due to different systems and criteria of health service regulations in different countries and lack of any previous study has limited discussion of these findings.

There are some limitations to the present study should be taken into consideration when interpreting the data. First, the data used in this study extracted from the patients' dental record who sought care in dental school clinics in accordance with the training program and might not therefore, be representative of dental offices or other UAE service access. Second, our data were for only Ajman University - Fujairah dental school, so our results are not generalizable to other schools. Others include patients' satisfaction and care outcomes.

Conclusion

Despite the study limitations, it is important to mention that even in countries where the state finances a larger proportion of dental services, unequal access to care exists and many people admit to having to postpone dentist visits for financial reasons. This study demonstrates the types and amount of dental treatments given free to patients from Fujairah through the Dental School clinic, Ajman University- Fujairah campus. Further large-scale study to assess the quality and patients' satisfaction regarding the treatments rendered by dental schools' clinics is highly recommended.

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Conflicting of Interest

None.

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