

THE KNOWLEDGE AMONG GENERAL POPULATION TOWARDS IMPLANT AS AN OPTION FOR REPLACEMENT OF MISSING TEETH

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ABSTRACT

AIM: To assess the Knowledge among general population towards implant as an option for replacement of missing teeth.

BACKGROUND: Smile and face play a crucial role in the creation and maintenance of positive attitudes about one's self and have a immense emotional significance in today's social world. Teeth play an important role in the continuance of a positive self- image. Tooth loss can be disturbing and upsetting that requires psychological and social modification. The traditional approach toward prosthetic dentistry is based on the principle of replacement of missing tooth, whereas recently requirements such as aesthetics and functional importance are considered more. The attitude of patients towards tooth loss is ever changing. Adults have more noteworthy desires of their dental health than previously. However with the advent of new technology, more restorative options have become available, thereby changing the demand for prosthodontic treatment. Implant treatment has come into focus since this treatment option has provided excellent long term results by increased retention, stability, functional efficiency and quality of life.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: This study contains a sample set of 100. A questionnaire was distributed among the partially edentulous patients attending Saveetha Dental College which contains a set of 8 question out of which four were yes or no type question and the rest question where given with particular options.

RESULT: this study shows very minimal knowledge among the patients about replacement of missing teeth.

CONCLUSION: More number of awareness needs to be created to increase the knowledge among patients about missing tooth replacement.

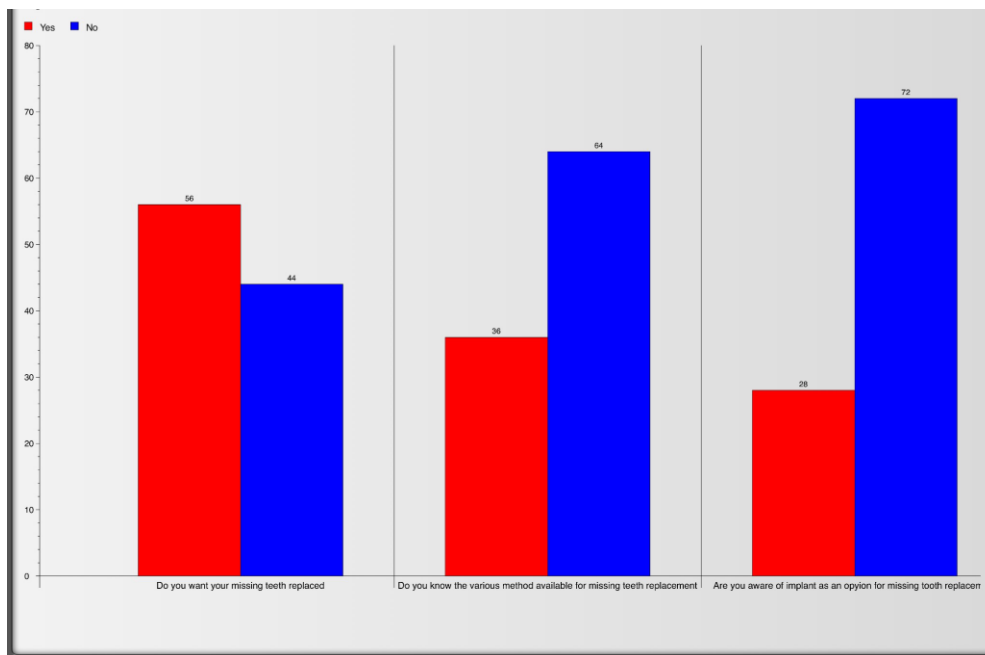
INTRODUCTION:

Loss of teeth significantly impairs oral functions and masticatory efficiency.¹ Oral health related quality of life declines with compromised masticatory function due to unreplaced missing teeth.² Several factors affect the need or demand of prosthodontic replacement of missing natural teeth e.g. age, gender, socioeconomic status, educational level and appearance etc.¹ Due to lack of awareness about importance of prosthodontic replacement, mostly patients do not seek treatment immediately after tooth loss, even if replacement of missing teeth is strongly indicated. Loss of teeth occurs gradually with time; therefore some individuals become adapted to missing teeth and do not feel the need for replacement.³ Patients with different educational and socioeconomic background may have different reasons for not replacing teeth after extraction such as financial issues, lack of time and lack of motivation.⁴ This study intends to explore the awareness level of General population and more specifically of patients visiting Saveetha Dental College. This would help educate the prosthodontic fraternity and the dental community thereby enabling more informed counselling and promotion of prosthodontic services in order to improve the oral health condition of patients with missing teeth.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

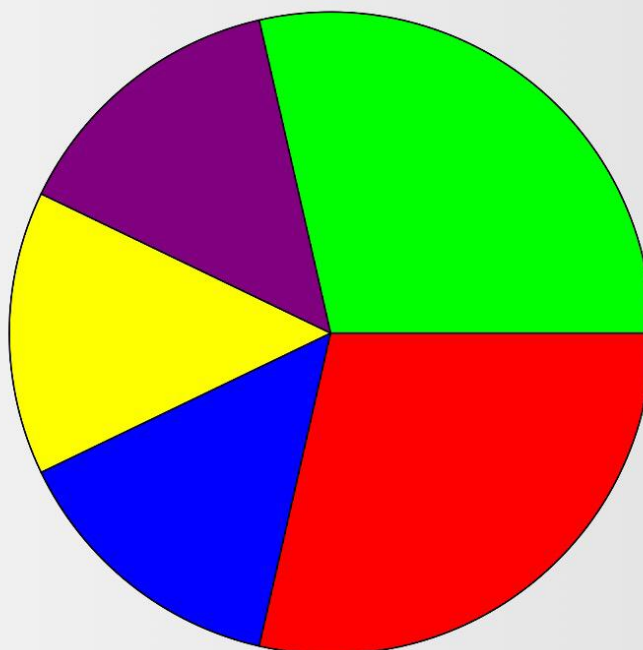
This questionnaire consist of a set of descriptive question which was given to patients attending Saveetha Dental College. Inclusive criteria for this study was patients attending Saveetha dental college for the first time within a age group of 35- 70 and the exclusive criteria was patients already undergoing any kind of restorative procedures. The questionnaire consist of a set of 8 question out of which 4 where yes or no based questions, and the rest had set of options depending upon the question.

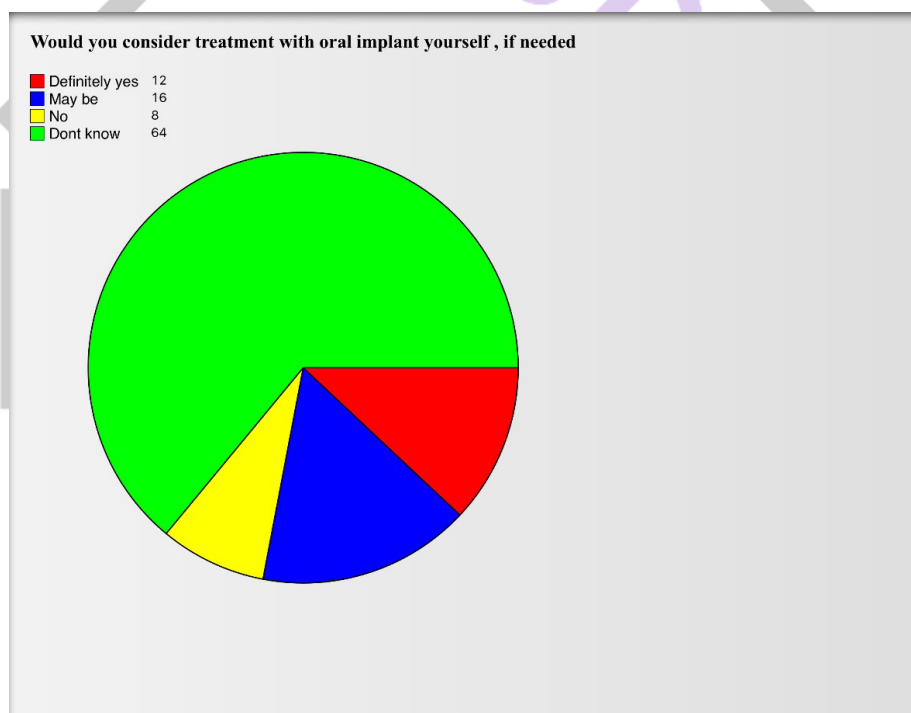
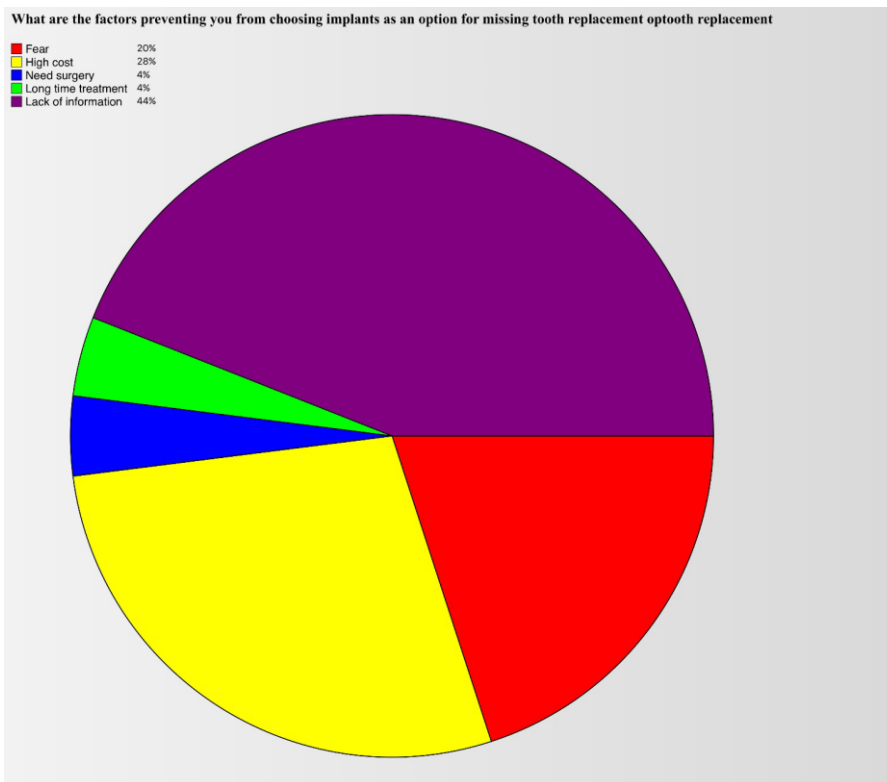
RESULTS:

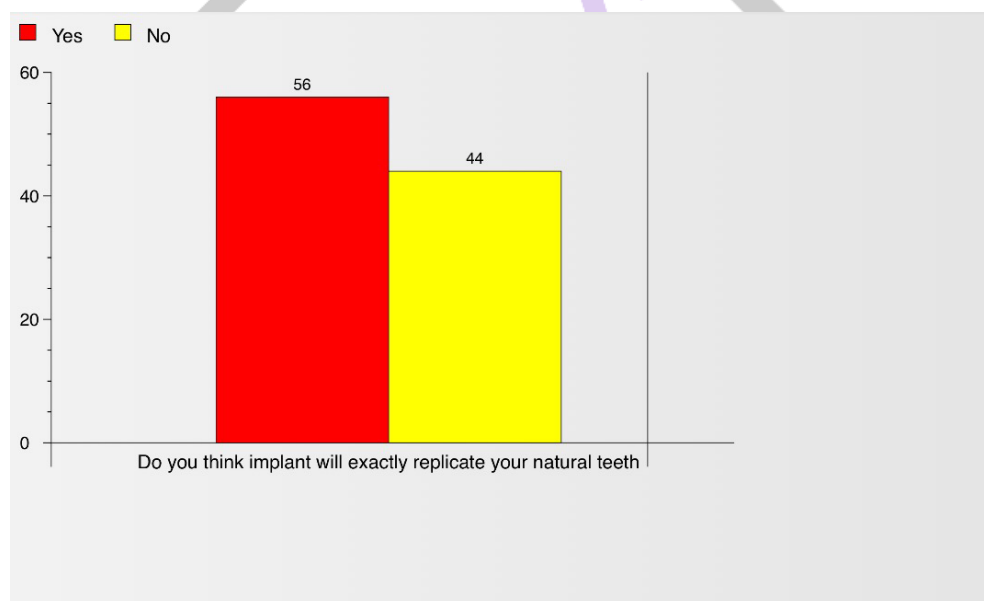
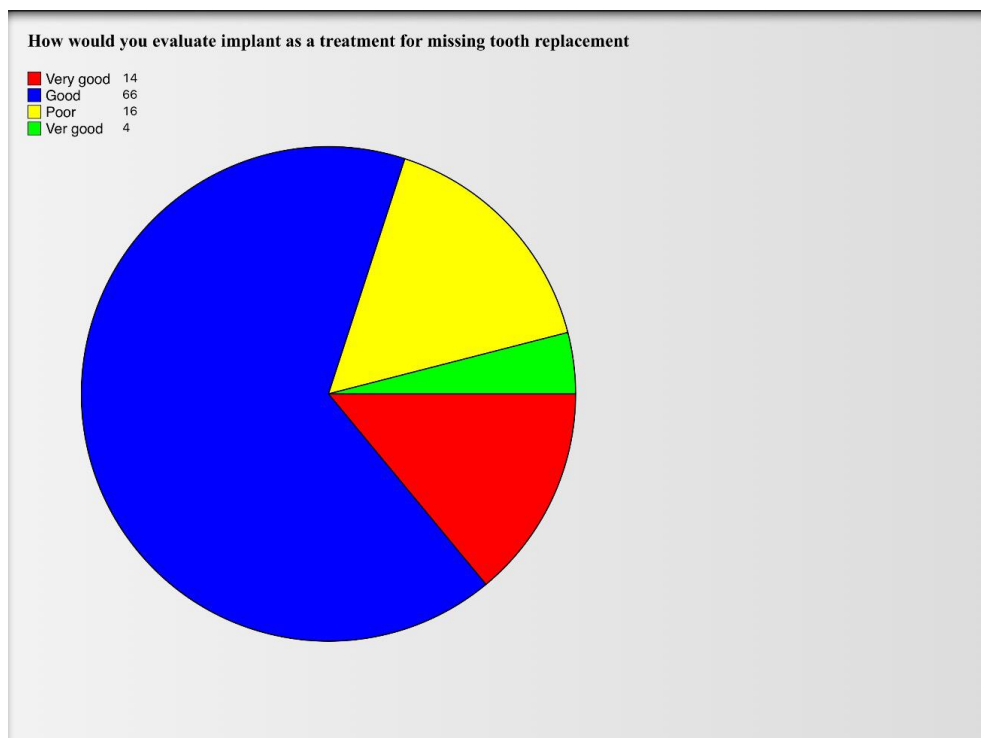


how did you know about implant as an option for replacement of missing tooth

- Dentist 28.57%
- Family 14.29%
- Newspaper 14.29%
- Advertisement 14.29%
- Radio /television/internet 28.57%







DISCUSSION:

In this study 56 patients wanted their missing teeth replaced among which only 36 had a knowledge about the various options available for missing tooth replacement among them only 28 people are aware of implant as a treatment option. Respondents who were aware of implants gained their knowledge about implants either by dentist or internet and media. Lack of knowledge about implants is the prime reason (44) for the patients not undergoing implant treatment apart from fear of surgery and cost. 56 patients thought that implant would exactly replicate the natural teeth.

Another study conducted on 1000 Austrian individuals by Pommer et al also reports awareness level about dental implants to be 79%.⁵ While in a Norwegian study conducted in 2001, the survey report shows that dental awareness level was about 70%. The higher level of awareness in the western populations as indicated by the above mentioned studies are reflective of the better dental and prosthodontic awareness that exists among those populations owing to more routine dental consultations and educative counselling during these consultations.

The results obtained in our study were in contrast to that of Akeel,⁶ whose study found only 82 percent of the subjects perceived a need for tooth replacement. The difference in the results may be because the investigator had selected subjects from the screening clinic of the King Saud University College of Dentistry.

According to Leake et al.,⁷ the subjective need for prosthetic replacement of teeth, particularly posterior teeth, is often low because such replacements seldom improve the individual's social status. Moreover, as tooth loss usually occurs gradually over a period of time, it allows the individual to adapt to the situation with no apparent complaints. Therefore, many older individuals may not perceive a need for dentures in spite of losing significant numbers of teeth because they have adapted to their missing teeth over time.⁸

This study highlights the significant role that the dentists play in the spread of awareness about prosthodontic treatment and they prove a good source of information which facilitates further spread of information to patient's friends and relatives. It also points out the role that media can play in educating the public about dental treatment options for missing teeth.

CONCLUSION:

This survey shows there is a very minimum knowledge about implants among the general population for the replacement of missing teeth. Proper awareness through media and by the dentist could motivate the patients to consider implant as a preferred treatment option for replacement

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