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Survey of complaints of patients regarding appearance and efficiency wearing complete dentures

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Abstract

Meeting patient's expectations by giving importance to their demands is the most important criteria for complete denture success. Among these demands appearance and efficiency are predominant factors. These are most frequent complaints among denture patients. Therefore a study was aimed at eliciting information regarding the frequency of post insertion problems on 175 patients referred to Department of prosthodontics and crown and bridge, wearing complete dentures.

Keywords: Post insertion problems, complete dentures, characterization

Introduction

Edentulism is considered a poor health outcome and may compromise the quality of life. Many patients experience difficulties in wearing or using dentures. In some cases they may not be prepared to accept the limited efficiency of dentures when compared to natural teeth they replace while some others are not satisfied with the appearance^[1]. The successful solution of these problems depends on powers of observation, artistic skill, and scientific preparation². Technical faults aside, the patients psychological well-being is postulated as a source of denture problems. Boucher^[3-4] has advised recall appointments immediately 24 hour post insertion and periodic check-up phase. Sharry^[5] has advised four recall appointments after 10 days, 3 weeks, 6 weeks and 3months consequently from denture placement. Therefore the study was aimed to collect data about various post insertion problems of complete dentures so that it will improve awareness of dental clinicians about common post insertion complaints and help them in their management.

Materials and Methods

This cross sectional study was done on 175 patients wearing complete denture who came to the Department of Prosthodontics with post insertion complaints from January 2018 to December 2019. These patients were presenting for the first visit within the first month after the insertion of complete denture.

The assessment of all post-insertion complaints was done. The questionnaire included information on complains like:

- 1) Appearance (Concerned about Denture appearance, Concerned about gum appearance, Denture base characterization).
- 2) Efficiency (Difficulty in swallowing, difficulty in mastication and loss of taste).

Results

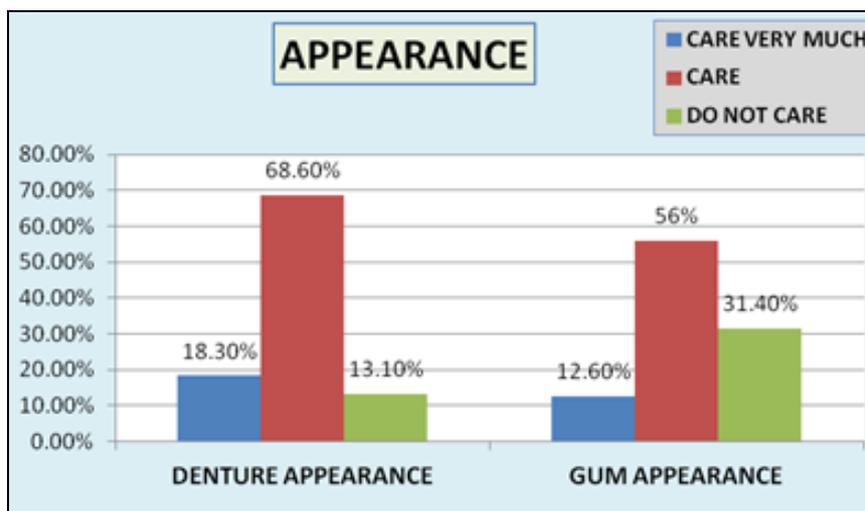
The statistical analysis was carried out. For analysis (chi square test) was used. For the ease of interpretation of the results obtained, the related complaints were pooled up and their mean percentage is calculated as follows (Table 1A, Table1B, Graph 1A, Graph1B, Table 2 and Graph 2)

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Table 1A: Appearance while wearing artificial complete removable dentures.

	Care very much n (%)	Care n (%)	Do not care n (%)	Chi square test	p value, Significance
Concerned about denture appearance	32 (18.3%)	120 (68.6%)	23 (13.1%)	Chi = 98.48	$p < 0.001^{**}$
Concerned about gum appearance	22 (12.6%)	98 (56%)	55 (31.4%)	Chi = 49.79	$p < 0.001^{**}$

$p > 0.05$ -not significant * $p < 0.05$ -significant ** $p < 0.001$ -highly significant

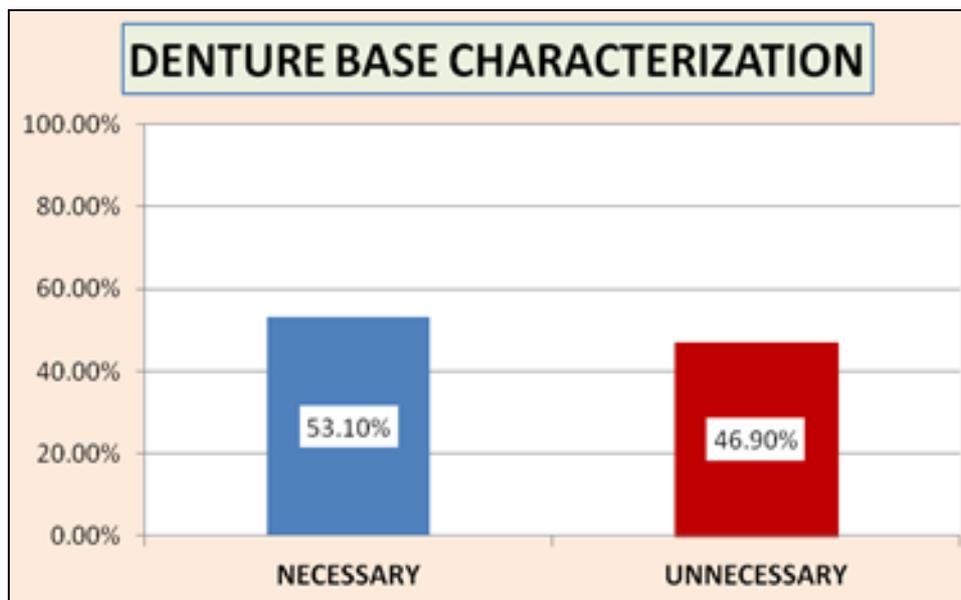


Graph 1A: Showing percentage of denture wearers who care very much, care and do not care about appearance.

Table 1B: Appearance

	Necessary n (%)	Unnecessary n (%)	Chi square test	p value, Significance
Apply denture base characterization	93 (53.1%)	82 (46.9%)	Chi = 0.691	$p = 0.406$

$p > 0.05$ -not significant * $p < 0.05$ -significant ** $p < 0.001$ -highly significant

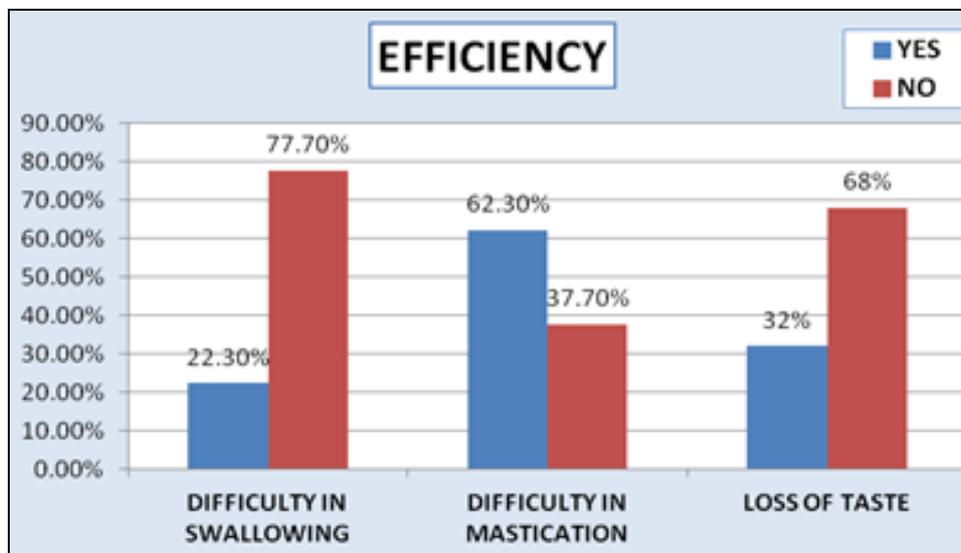


Graph 1B: Showing percentage of complete denture patients considering denture base characterization necessary.

Table 2: Efficiency while wearing artificial complete removable dentures

	Yes n (%)	No n (%)	Chi square test	p value, Significance
Difficulty in swallowing	39 (22.3%)	136 (77.7%)	Chi = 53.76	$p < 0.001^{**}$
Difficulty in mastication	109 (62.3%)	66 (37.7%)	Chi = 36.1	$p = 0.013^*$
Loss of taste	56 (32%)	119 (68%)	Chi = 22.68	$p < 0.001^{**}$

$p > 0.05$ -not significant * $p < 0.05$ -significant ** $p < 0.001$ -highly significant



Graph 2: Showing the post insertion complaints related to efficiency and their mean percentage.

Discussion

The emotional reaction of an aged person is by subjective factors while the ability to make objective judgment diminishes with progressive senescence, therefore the patient's satisfaction may often be an expression of his general feeling of gratification towards dentist [6].

A major challenge in dental practice continues to be the successful management of the complete denture patient who experiences ongoing difficulty with his or her dentures [2].

Jeganathan *et al.* [7] in 1993 reviewed the common faults in complete dentures and concluded that the satisfaction with the complete denture therapy is dependent on communication between the dentist and the patient, sound diagnostic and practical skills of the operator, and continuous aftercare.

This study was conducted to evaluate the post-insertion problems associated with complete denture. Table 1A shows that the percentage of people who cared very much about denture appearance (18.3%) were higher than those who care very much about gum appearance (12.6%). The percentage of people who care about denture appearance (68.6%) were higher than those who cared about gum appearance (56%). However, 13.1% of people did not care at all about denture appearance and 31.4% of patients did not care about gum appearance.

Table 1B shows 53.1% patients considered denture base characterization necessary.

Table 2 shows that complaint regarding difficulty in mastication was higher (62.3%) followed by loss of taste (32%) and difficulty in swallowing (22.3%).

Conclusion

There is, inevitably, the potential for problems to arise subsequent to the insertion of complete dentures. These problems may be transient and may be essentially disregarded by the patient or they may be serious enough to result in the patient being unable to tolerate the dentures. Once the denture-wearing problem becomes apparent, it is important that it is addressed in a logical and systematic way.

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