

A Survey To Evaluate Attitude Towards Replacement Of Missing Teeth In Patient Among South Coastal Area Of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

As years are passing attitude towards the dental treatment of each individual is changing not only the aesthetic is their prime concern but also, they demand for a prosthesis which is biomechanical in function and long lasting. Therefore, a prime concern should be given to patient's attitude and their expectations towards the treatment which will in all lead to patient's satisfaction. However, there are generally no accepted rules about how to estimate need, demand or utilization of prosthodontic services in most situations, since individual preferences play a very important role. The awareness of patient regarding dental treatment is of prime importance and should be looked upon. This study was done to assess the patients attitude and concern towards missing teeth and rehabilitating it with the artificial teeth.

Key words: Attitude, Replacement, Socioeconomic Status, Patient Education.

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INTRODUCTION

Teeth play an important role in the maintenance of a positive self-image. The loss of teeth results in significant disabilities, which can profoundly disrupt social activities. Hence tooth loss in an individual creates a misbalance in his/her oral environment which needs a significant psychological, social, biomechanical readjustment. It has been suggested that adverse reactions towards edentulousness as well as the individual's feelings about dentures are important for the acceptance of the new dentures.

In spite of progress in oral health promotion and restorative techniques, tooth loss is still a reality in old age, and there is widespread need for tooth replacement in the elderly population (1). However, the prevalence of dental

implants in the elderly and especially in the very old and institutionalized population is low (2). As the population ages, dental health surveys indicate that the proportion of partially dentate older adults is increasing.

A major challenge for the dental profession will be to plan oral healthcare for this group of patients. Of fundamental interest, will be attitudes of older adults to healthcare, and acceptance of treatment. Irrespective of an intended benefit to appearance and function, a number of studies have indicated poor patient acceptance of RPDs, with findings of some 30-50% of patients never or only occasionally wearing their denture commonly reported (1). As years are passing attitude towards the dental treatment of each individual is changing not only the aesthetic is

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J Oral Health Comm Dent 2016;10(3)69-73

their prime concern but also, they demand for a prosthesis which is biomechanical in function and long lasting. Therefore, a prime concern should be given to patients attitude and their expectations towards the treatment which will in all lead to patients satisfaction. However, there are generally no accepted rules about how to estimate need, demand or utilization of prosthodontic services in most situations, since individual preferences play a very important role(3-5).

METHODOLOGY

A survey was conducted to determine patients’ attitudes about replacement of teeth in the department of prosthodontics and implantology in AB Shetty memorial institute of dental sciences Mangalore.

A total of 100 patients were examined in the department of prosthodontics and implantology after they were informed about the study, and gave their consent. A total of 17 questionnaires were recorded. The chief complaint of the patient was the first criteria to follow, which was followed by intraoral examination also the overall missing and existing teeth were charted down to determine which type of prosthesis can be given to the patient also which all needs of the patients regarding prosthetic replacement can be fulfilled such as aesthetics, functional or both aesthetics and functional.

The patients were divided into 4 groups of 25 patients in each group. The groups were divided based on which type of prosthesis the patient need. Each group consisted of 25 patients each,

- Group A consist of patients in need with complete denture prosthesis.
- Group B consist of patients in need with removable dental prosthesis.
- Group C consisted of patients in need with patients in need with fixed dental prosthesis.
- Group D consisted of patients in need with implant supported fixed prosthesis.

All the questionnaires were recorded and intraoral examination was done by a single examiner. All this data was collected and statistically analysed by using chi-square test.

Patient selection

Hundred patients were selected complaining about missing teeth in either of the arch. Out of hundred twenty-five patients in each group were selected for either for complete denture prosthesis, removable partial denture prosthesis, fixed dental prosthesis or implant supported prosthesis.

Inclusion criteria

- Age group 20-80 years, male or female patients.

- Patients with missing teeth in either of the upper and lower arch
- Patients who are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion criteria

- Age less than 20 and more than 80 years.
- 2. Patients who are not ready to participate in the study.

Results

1. Completed education
2. How often do you visit a dentist?
3. Spending money on health care should be everyone’s prime concern
4. Reason for the loss of the tooth
5. Reason for not replacing the

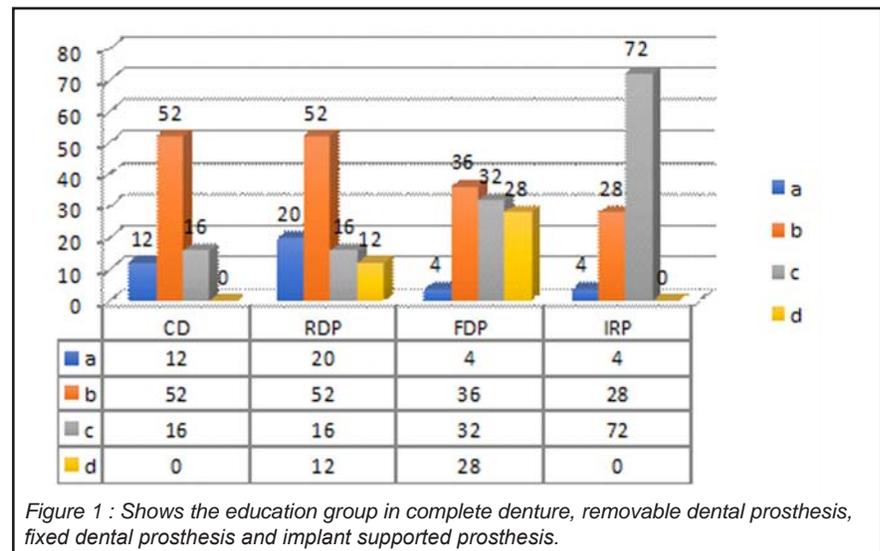


Figure 1 : Shows the education group in complete denture, removable dental prosthesis, fixed dental prosthesis and implant supported prosthesis.

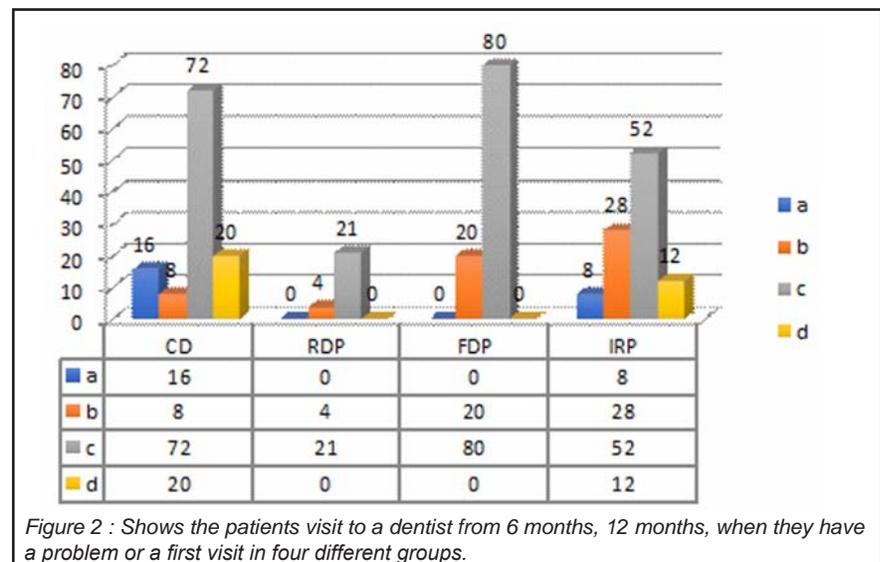
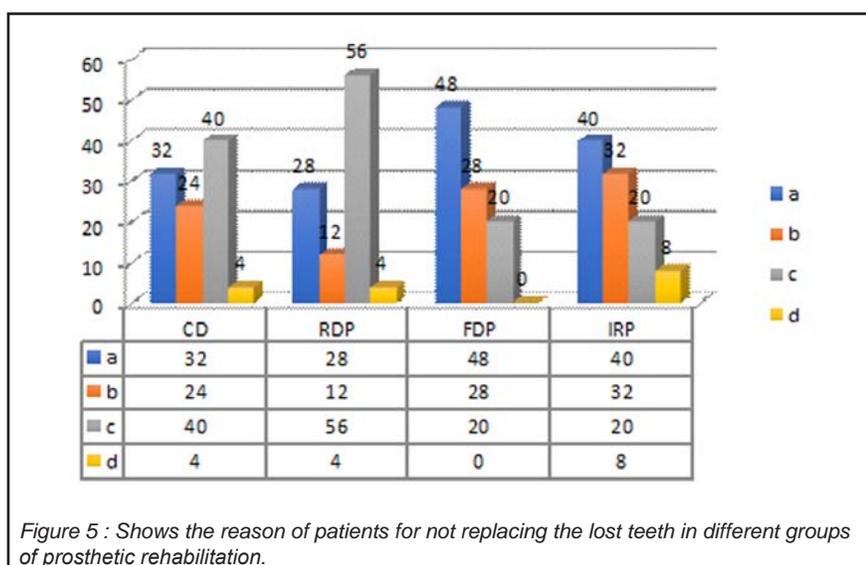
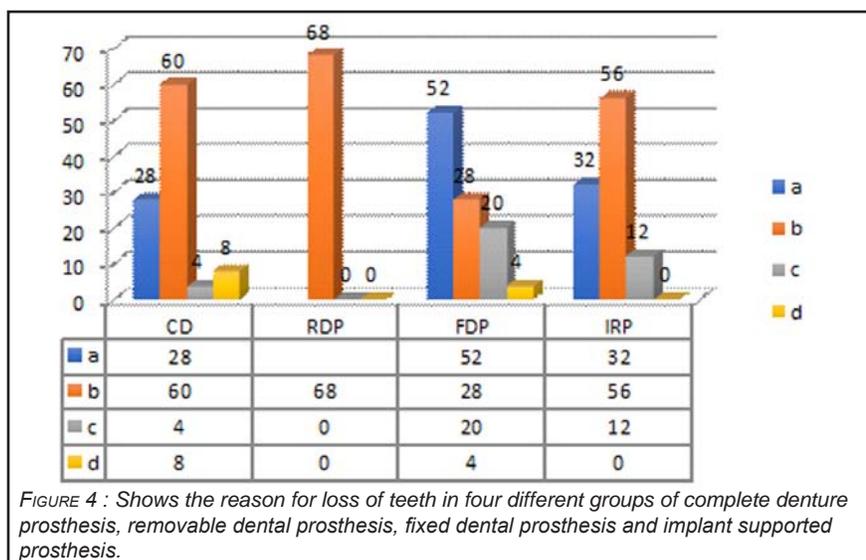
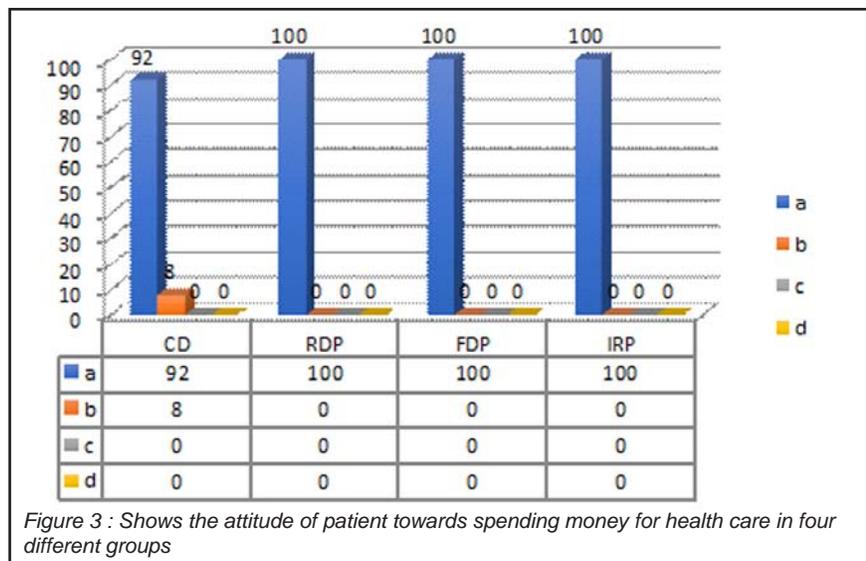


Figure 2 : Shows the patients visit to a dentist from 6 months, 12 months, when they have a problem or a first visit in four different groups.



- tooth
6. You think missing tooth should be replaced
 7. What is the prime concern for replacing the missing teeth
 8. Artificial teeth are equivalent to natural teeth
 9. Artificial teeth help in reducing the problems caused by missing teeth

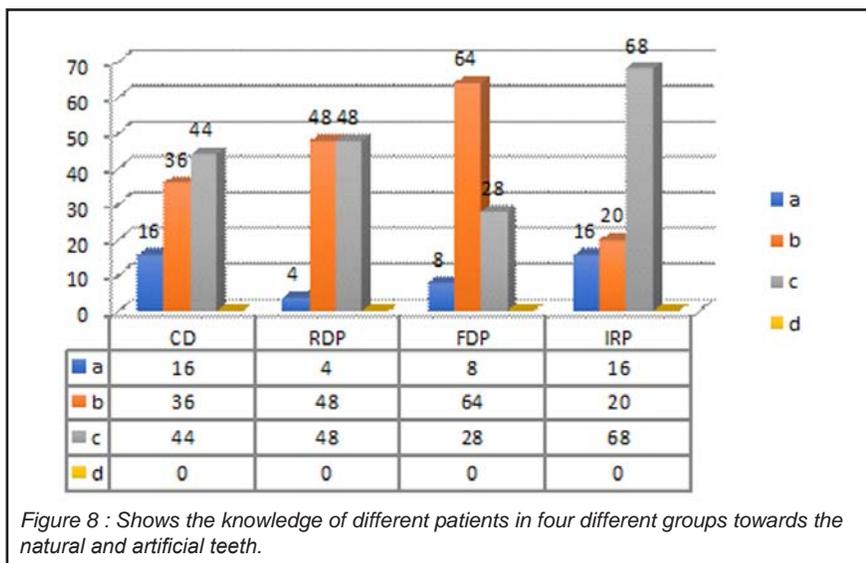
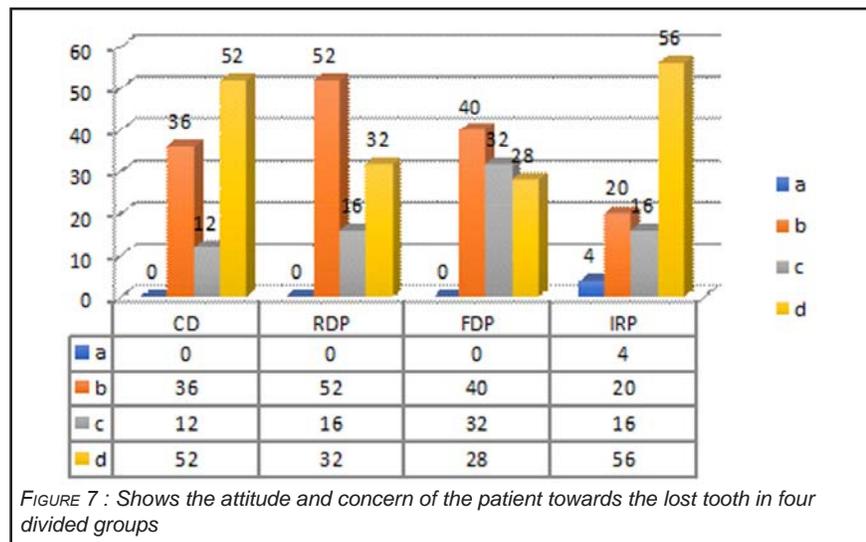
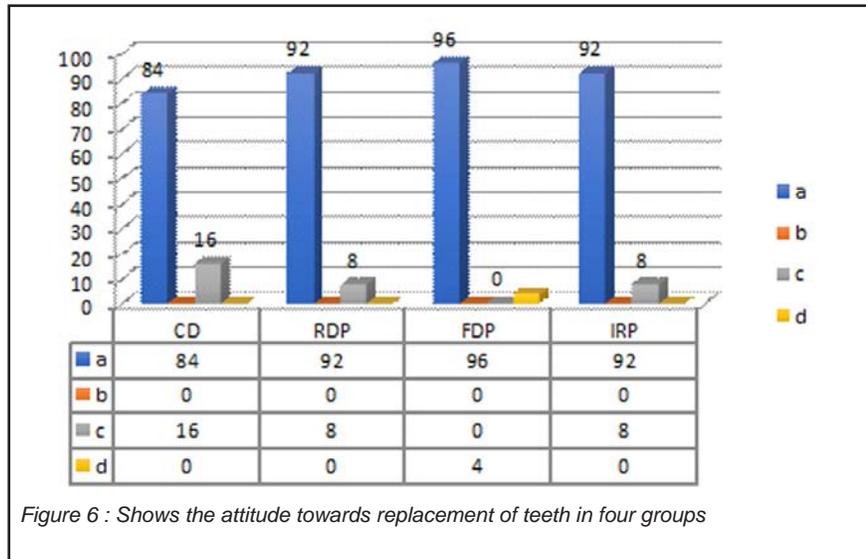
The result of the study showed the unawareness of the replacement of the missing teeth in different age groups and also their attitude towards replacement of the lost teeth. The good results were seen regarding the health care awareness and their willingness towards spending money for health care.

DISCUSSION

According to the survey done the education group in complete denture and removable dental prosthesis is from the primary education group whereas fixed dental prosthesis where from high school education group and implant retained prosthesis where from higher education.

Visit to a dentist was not on regular check-up basis instead Both male and female patient visited dentist when they faced dental problems of all the four group. Spending money on health care was the prime concern of all the groups there was no difference seen in male and female patients. The reason for loss of teeth in CD, RDP, IRP was due to gum related problems, whereas in FDP group tooth loss seen around 52 percent was due to tooth decay.

When reason asked for not replacing the missing teeth, among four groups CD and RDP group were due to the financial reason. on the other side FDP and IRP group showed lack of time as a reason for replacing missing teeth. Replacing missing teeth was prime concern among all the four groups but function was the prime concern seen among RDP and FDP group whereas multiple concern such as speech, function and aesthetics were seen in both



CD and IRP group. Among all the groups FDP group agreed as artificial teeth are equivalent to natural teeth in appearance and function whereas CD, RDP and IRP group didn't give any answer.

All the four-group agreed that artificial teeth helps in reducing the problems caused by missing teeth whether it is in the form of speech, aesthetics or function.

CONCLUSION

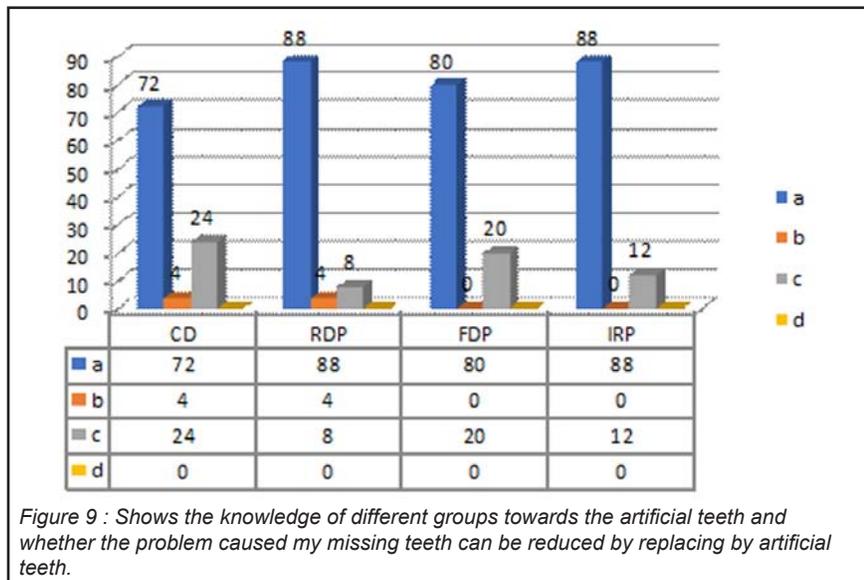
The present study helps in evaluating attitude of missing teeth in all different groups. The results show that people with lower education group gave financial reason for not replacing the missing teeth whereas people from higher education group gave lack of time as their reason for not replacing the missing teeth.

Patient education and motivation should be the prime concern of each dentist towards replacement of missing teeth, also patient education is necessary for regular dental visit to avoid further dental problems as the result showed most of the patient visit to dental clinic when they have any dental problem, changing this attitude will also reduce in future dental problems. As most of the patient are not aware of the knowledge about artificial teeth and their function, providing knowledge and awareness among people about artificial teeth and their importance will decrease dental related disorders.

The present study also indicates attitude seen among different patients such as in CD, RDP, FDP and IRP patients, further studies are necessary to study different attitude among different age group with wide range and more sample size to overcome the dental problems.

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QUESTIONNAIRE:

- Name:
Patient reference no :
 - Age:
 - Gender: M/F
 - Chief complaints (in patient’s own words):
 - Occupation:
 - Address:
 - Completed Education:
 - Illiterate
 - Primary education
 - High school education
 - Higher education
 - How often do you visit to a dentist.
 - 6months
 - 12 months
 - when you any problem
 - First visit.
 - Do you think spending money on health care should be everyone prime concern. yes/No
 - What was the reason for tooth loss.
 - Decay
 - Gum problem
 - Accidental
 - Don’t know
 - What were the Reasons for not replacing the missing teeth
 - No time
 - Did not feel need
 - Financial reason
 - Did not know
 - What you think the missing teeth should be replaced? Yes/No/Do not know
 - If yes, what is your prime concern for replacement:
 - Speech
 - function
 - appearance
 - combination (more than one)
 - Do you think artificial teeth are equivalent to natural teeth in appearance and function? Yes/No/Do not know
 - Do you think artificial teeth helps in reducing the problems caused by missing teeth.
 - yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
- Clinical Examination**
- Existing teeth:
 - Missing teeth: