

## Knowledge and Level of Awareness about Dental Implants amongst the First and Second Year Dental Students of A Tertiary Dental College At Gujarat

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**Abstract:** Background and Aim: In the last few years, the treatment of missing teeth has been distorted many folds due to the numerous use of dental implants in rehabilitation of partially or completely edentulous patients. Present study was undertaken with an aim to establish knowledge and level of awareness about dental implants among the first and second year dental students of a tertiary Dental College at Gujarat. Methods: Present cross-sectional study was carried out to find knowledge and level of awareness about dental implants among the first and second year dental students of a tertiary Dental College at Gujarat. 150 self-explanatory questionnaire forms which included 4 questions about implants were circulated among the students out of which 128 returned the entirely filled questionnaires. Analysis was done using SPSS version 15 (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA) Windows software program. Results: In reply to first question whether they know about implant therapy as a method of replacement of missing teeth, 114 (89%) answered in a yes while 14(11%) said they don't know about implants. When asked about lifespan of implants, 57% students answered it would be less than 10 years. When asked about the estimated cost of implant treatment, around 27% students said should be around 15000 INR while 57% said they think 20000 INR. Conclusion: It was concluded after study that knowledge regarding dental implants in the route of undergraduate dentistry needs to be amplified if we want the future dentists to be well informed and certain regarding dental implant therapy. [D Chandarana, Natl J Integr Res Med, 2018; 9(3):34-36]

**Key Words:** implants, knowledge, missing teeth, undergraduate

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**Introduction:** There are many treatment techniques accessible for the replacement of missing teeth. The prime importance is to preserve normal function, speech, esthetics and health of the patient. In the last few years, the treatment of missing teeth has been distorted many folds due to the numerous use of dental implants in rehabilitation of partially or completely edentulous patients.<sup>1</sup> Implants are becoming crucial part of dentistry these days because of its achievement and inevitability in esthetic, functional rehabilitation and long-standing flourishing outcomes.<sup>1-3</sup> Significant development in the quality of life connected to oral health has been noticed in patients who favored dental implants as a treatment modality for replacement of missing teeth over other techniques.<sup>4</sup>

In the current situation, dental implants are regularly used in dentistry for replacing missing teeth, but dental practitioners are still missing the methodical knowledge about implants in dentistry. In spite of the outstanding clinical outcomes of dental implants, the fundamental knowledge and information about

fundamentals of dental implants is still absent among the first and second year dental students.<sup>5,6</sup>

Though dental implant as a modality of treatment for missing teeth is an elective one, patients must be provided with absolute information about dental implants and their uses to give their consent about the treatment.<sup>1</sup> The general population is educated by modern day healthcare providers about most recent treating modalities in the field of dentistry. Consciousness among the undergraduate dental/medical students concerning any new update in their field will supplement the above said purpose. Attention among the undergraduate dental students concerning dental implants can help in removing any kind of fear regarding this procedure among general population due to lack of adequate information.<sup>7</sup>

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 undertaken with an aim to establish knowledge and level of awareness about dental implants among the first and second

year dental students of a tertiary Dental College at Gujarat.

**Methods:** Present cross-sectional study was carried out to find knowledge and level of awareness about dental implants among the first and second year dental students of a tertiary Dental College at Gujarat. A total of one hundred and fifty students of First and Second year BDS program were selected randomly for this study. 150 self-explanatory questionnaire forms which included 4 questions about implants were circulated among the students out of which 128 returned the entirely filled questionnaires. Ethical approval was obtained from the institute of and written informed consent was taken from all the participants.

**Statistical analysis:** The data was coded and entered into Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Analysis was done using SPSS version 15 (SPSS Inc. Chicago, IL, USA) Windows software program. The variables were assessed for normality using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Descriptive statistics were calculated.

**Results :** The present study provides facts about dental undergraduates of first and second year student’s knowledge and awareness about dental implants for the management of missing teeth at tertiary care Dental College of Gujarat. Out of a total of 150 students 128 returned the completely filled questionnaire. Table shows the response of these students for different question asked.

**Table 1: Knowledge and Awareness about dental implant among undergraduate students**

Questionnaire	Categories	Response: n (%)
Are you aware of the implant therapy as an alternative for missing teeth?	Yes	114 (89)
	No	14 (11)
Lifespan of implants	<10 years	73 (57)
	10-20 years	26 (20.3)
	No Idea/Don't Know	29 (22.6)
What should be the minimum amount payable for implant treatment?	15000	35 (27.3)
	20000	73 (57)
	>20000	20 (15.6)

Source of information of implants	Dentists	34 (26.5)
	TV/Newspaper	62 (48.4)
	Others	32 (25)

**Discussion:** Ever since the prologue of the perception of osseointegration in dentistry, the dental implants management has become fairly admired for the replacement of the lost or missing teeth.<sup>5</sup> In developed countries, dental implant therapy is becoming popular among patients and dentists with the help of different education and health related programs<sup>6</sup> while the situation is quite dissimilar in developing countries like India. Regardless of the achievement of implant therapy, the implant procedures are ignored in undergraduate dental curriculum, as a consequence of this, the dental students are missing knowledge about dental implants.

The aim of this research was to recognize the awareness about dental implants amongst undergraduate dental students. A total of 150 students were included in the survey and questionnaires were disseminated among them. Only 128 out of 150 returned the duly filled forms.

In reply to first question whether they know about implant therapy as a method of replacement of missing teeth, 114 (89%) answered in a yes while 14(11%) said they don't know about implants. Question regarding the source of information of implants, 48.4% students answered they got to know about dental implants from Television, reading newspapers or through net, which is in agreement with the study conducted by Saxena et al<sup>8</sup> in contrast to study done by Kaurani et al<sup>3</sup> reported that dentists were the major source of information about dental implants however direct comparisons could not be made as this research was performed on patients. Greatest students opined for print and electronic media as main foundation of information shows that there is augmented access to internet among students.

When asked about lifespan of implants, 57% students answered it would be less than 10 years which is contrary to Saxena et al<sup>8</sup> in which 14.37% said it would be less than 10 years. Around 20%students said implants last from 10-20 years while 22.6% said they don't have any idea about the lifespan of implants.

The price of implants is a major key factor in this type of treating modality. When asked about the estimated cost of implant treatment, around 27% students said should be around 15000 INR while 57% said they think 20000 INR would be approximate cost for dental implants while only 15.6% believed implant treatment should cost more than 20000 INR.

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**Conclusion:** It was concluded after study that knowledge regarding dental implants in the route of undergraduate dentistry needs to be amplified if we want the future dentists to be well informed and certain regarding dental implant therapy.

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