

Awareness And Perception Of Post Graduate Students Towards Denture Marking In Vidarbha Region.

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Abstract:

In extensive mishap such as those associated with earthquakes, tidal bore, airplane crashes, and acts of terrorism, forensic odontology has exhibited a paramount relevance in medico-legal investigations directed in identifying mortal remains. Denture recognition is essential for ailing patients or patients in geriatric associations. One method of identification in forensic odontology is labeled dentures. It is a well-documented practice to mark dentures with some means of identification but not a very well-practiced one.

Aim :To assess the awareness and perception of post graduate students towards denture marking in vidarbha region. Methodology: A survey study was undertaken in Sharad Pawar Dental College, Sawangi(M), Wardha. Study comprised of 100 post-graduate students who voluntarily participated in the study. They were asked to answer the Questionnaire which would give us a clue about their awareness and perceptions towards denture marking. The questionnaire included basic demographic details along with the questions about the denture markers.

Result: 100% students felt that denture marking was important. However only 22 % students were aware about denture marking. While 98% felt that it is important to create awareness about denture marking process

Conclusion :The present survey revealed the knowledge and awareness current of forensic odontology among the dental post graduates. Although they are not having knowledge

about denture markers, but their opinion about interest in markers and also to include it in U.G curriculum goes a long way enough to show their positive interests.

Keywords : *Denture marking, Denture labelling, Forensic dentistry, Coding of prosthesis*

Introduction :

The word Forensic is derived from the Latin word forum, which means “court of law” and Odontology denotes study of teeth. Forensic odontology involves application of dental sciences in the identification of deceased individuals through comparison of ante-mortem and post-mortem records.(1)The methods used in identification include the dental comparisons, finger, palm or footprints, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) identification, and radiographic superimpositions. This science deals with evidence from dental and oral structures. Forensic odontology has been known for its best method which deals with the proper handling and examination of dental evidence. (2)

Denture recognition is essential for ailing patients or patients in geriatric associations. Coding of denture is an old approach in dental prosthesis and judicial sciences, and its regular usage has been adopted by the forensic odontologists worldwide for several ages. Several methods, which have been put forward in the literature, include surface coding using alloys, microchips, and barcodes. Coding can be described under the following two heads: surface-marking methods and inclusion methods.(3)Every dentist has to understand the forensic implications associated with their practice. In India dentists are less involved in forensic circumstances because of lack of training, experience, exposure, etc.

So this study was carried out to assess the awareness and perception of post graduate students towards denture marking in vidarbha region.

Materials and method:

A survey study was conducted in Dept. of Prosthodontics, Sharad Pawar Dental College, Sawangi(M), Wardha. Study comprised of 100 post-graduate students who voluntarily participated in this study. The aim of our study was to evaluate and ascertain their awareness and perception towards denture marking. Each student filled up self-administered questionnaire regarding denture markers. The questionnaire had ten questions included basic demographic details along with the questions about the denture markers. The questionnaire includes both open and closed ended questions. Eight were closed ended and two were open ended questions. The participants responses were assessed primarily in terms of the frequency distribution of the various ‘Yes/No’ answers .

Statistical analysis:

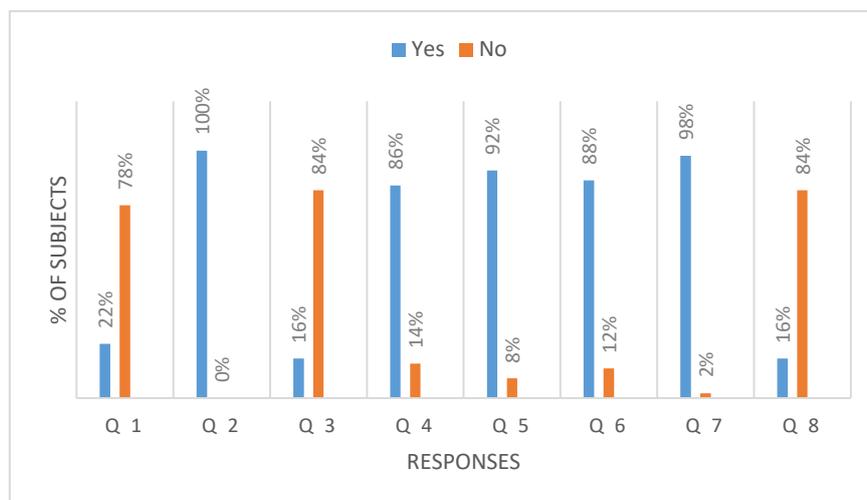
Statistical analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics using z-test for single proportion and software used in the analysis was SPSS 22.0 version and $p < 0.05$ is considered as level of significance. If $Z > 1.96$, it is considered as significant.

Observations & Results :

Table no 1: Questionnaire

Question No	Yes	No
Are you aware of denture marking?	22(22%)	78(78%)
Do you think that denture identification marking is a worthwhile procedure	100(100%)	0(0%)
Do you do denture marking	16(16%)	84(84%)
Do you think that people are not aware of importance of denture marking	86(86%)	14(14%)
Do you think denture marking is important	92(92%)	8(8%)
Do you think that it is necessary to teach dental marking procedures in dental undergraduate course	88(88%)	12(12%)
Do you think that it is necessary to create awareness among people regarding denture marking methods?	98(98%)	2(2%)
Have you attended any CDE programs/Workshops regarding Forensic Odontology	16(16%)	84(84%)

Graph no 1: Distribution of subjects according to their responses



Results:

Out of 100 post graduate students 22 students responded of being aware & having carried out denture marking in some of the cases (Q1). All 100 students felt that denture identification marking is a worthwhile procedure (Q2). 16% students had done denture marking (Q3). 86% students thought that people are unaware of importance of denture marking while 14% students responded saying that people are aware but they are not willing for many reasons (Q4). Importance of denture marking was felt by 92% students while 8% did not agree to the same (Q5). 88% students thought that it was necessary to teach dental marking procedures in dental undergraduate course while 12 percent felt that it is not required (Q6). 98% percent students are in favour of creating awareness among people regarding denture marking methods (Q7). Only 16% students attended any CDE programs/Workshops regarding Forensic Odontology while 84% did not have an exposure of the same.

Discussion:

In the survey carried out to gauge the awareness and perception of post graduate students, it was found out that the awareness of students about denture marking was just 22%. 16% students had done denture marking in some form. The commonly used form of marking by many of them was writing with indelible pencil on the intaglio surface of the dentures. Majority of the students responded that patients and the lab personnel are unaware of the marking in dentures. So if they insist on marking of dentures, the patient would be burdened with the additional cost and the dentist would have additional labour of carrying out the marking as was depicted in the survey carried out by Alexander et al (4). Similar result was obtained in a study carried out by C. A. Murray in which the dentists were aware and about it and 81% supported the marking of the dentures (5).

92% of students felt that it was important to mark dentures. With recent technologies, a vast amount of information can be stored in relatively esthetic type of labelling which could be of immense help to the dentists at the recall step. Use of such a 2D code was done by Sudheendra Udyavara (6). So utility of labelling the dentures is not only of benefit to the patient but also to the dentists. 88% of students felt that it is important to teach the marking of dentures at undergraduate level. In a survey carried out by Ankita Sahni et al, they stated that considering the rise in the events of accidents, crimes, and natural calamities, the subject of forensic odontology should be a separate subject at the undergraduate level itself. This will not only help in creating awareness but also act as new hope for BDS graduates who cannot pursue MDS or who are interested in the medical field as it can bridge the gap between the dental and medical fields to some extent. Although DCI has included forensic odontology in

their undergraduate curriculum, yet in most of the colleges very few hours are dedicated on it.(7) 98% students thought that awareness about the marking of dentures should be created amongst dental students. This in turn can lead to creation of awareness among the patient by educating them about the importance. Similar view was expressed in the article by Alexander et al(4). The open ended questions that gauged awareness of the students had various responses. The response to the question about importance of dental records medicolegally, was they were aware that it was important. But they did not know the exact role played by the dentist or his record in a medico legal case. So also the response to the question, if knowledge of forensic odontology will help in better clinical practice was that they do not know what difference it will make to their practice. However, some of them who had marked the denture said that instead of using only identity for marking other modalities like case history can also be included. This in turn would lead to just knowing at a glance on scanning the details of the patient.

Conclusion

The present survey revealed the knowledge and awareness current of forensic odontology among the dental post graduates. Although they are not having knowledge about denture markers, but their opinion about interest in markers and also to include it in U.G curriculum goes a long way enough to show their positive interests. Periodic conferences, workshops, CDEs, and seminars, if conducted for the dental surgeons, will help to enrich their knowledge and awareness. Moreover, if there are more job opportunities created in this field, more dentists will have interest in attending and participating in such programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF PROSTHODONTICS

SHARAD PAWAR DENTAL COLLEGE

SAWANGI (MEGHE) WARDHA

CONSENT FORM

I, hereby give consent for participating in the survey study conducting in Dept of Prosthodontics, Sharad Pawar Dental College & Hospital, Sawangi (M), Wardha. The concerned doctor has given detailed information in my vernacular language about survey study and its importance in Forensic identification.

In my full consciousness and presence of mind, I am giving my informed consent for participation in the study and I am willing to fill the Questionnaire.

Name of the Subject: _____

Sign _____

Date: