

Comparison Of Patient Satisfaction Between New Complete Denture Wearers And The Old Ones

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To determine the mean satisfaction score for patients with complete dentures and to compare the mean satisfaction score of patients with complete dentures and without past denture experience.

Study design and Setting; It was a cross-sectional study conducted at Watim Dental College, Rawalpindi, from March to August 2018.

Methodology: A total of 98 patients were selected and were asked regarding previous history of denture usage and their experience with the new set of dentures; in terms of function, comfort, appearance and total satisfaction. As a protocol all patients presenting to outpatient department and those patients who fulfilled the criteria were referred to Prosthodontic department for provision of complete dentures by specialist prosthodontist. Data was analysed using SPSS version 20. Descriptive statistics were calculated for both qualitative and quantitative variables. For qualitative variables like gender frequency and percentages was calculated. For Quantitative variables like age, score of function, comfort, appearance and total satisfaction mean and standard deviation were calculated. Mean \pm SD was calculated for satisfaction score among patients with and without past experience of denture usage. Independent sample t-test was used to compare quantitative variables. P values of less than 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: Mean score of function, comfort, appearance and total satisfaction was greater among the patients with past denture experience as compared to new denture wearers with no past experience of denture wearing.

Conclusion: Past denture experience has significant effect on patient satisfaction with their new complete dentures.

Keywords; Complete denture wearers, patient satisfaction, past denture experience.

INTRODUCTION:

There is a significant co relation between oral and general health, which subsequently affects the overall quality of life of people especially the elderly people. The oral health of a population can be well indicated by partial or complete edentulism.¹ One of the major concerns among elderly population worldwide is edentulism, although over the last few years the incidence of complete tooth loss has markedly decreased.² However, the different regions of the world have

shown considerable variations in the prevalence of complete edentulism.³ Direct consequences of edentulism include impaired masticatory function, discomfort, nutritional deficiencies, poor oral health quality, psychological and social disability.⁴

Conventional complete denture therapies still extensively used and it is not expected to decline in the near future especially in less developed population with limited economic resources.⁵ Rehabilitation with dentures following tooth loss may result in great amount of impact and social implications on the patient.⁶ The ability of the patient to interact with others can also be restored with the help of dentures.⁷ The prosthetic rehabilitation is mainly provided to those who have experienced tooth loss in order to restore function, comfort, aesthetics and oral health. Clinicians believe that supporting tissues can be maintained in good health by means of well-fitting dentures and in this way oral function and self-esteem of the patients can be improved.⁸

Patient satisfaction is considered as one of the most important goals in prosthodontic treatment. The factors which mainly affects the stomatognathic system are the quality of dentures, oral conditions, patient's acceptance towards the dentures, patient's personality and the patient-dentist relationship.⁹ The influence of patient expectations on the patient satisfaction must be determined as it has a crucial effect on the success of the treatment.⁸ Different results were shown in different studies when these factors were examined. Some investigators did not find a significant relationship while

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others did.^{10,11} The success of complete dentures is dependent on multiple factors, patient perception is an important factor for successful treatment.¹² Satisfaction towards complete dentures may not only be affected by biologic and technical considerations taken into account during fabrication of complete dentures, other parameters may also play an important role. These include age, gender, literacy level, socioeconomic conditions, marital status, patient/professional relationship and psychological factors.^{13,14}

Patient satisfaction is also affected by a large number of factors. Previous experience with dentures and age of patient are considered important factors. One study concluded that patients greater than sixty years of age showed greater difficulty in adaptation to the new set of complete dentures than those who were younger than sixty.¹⁵ The oral mucosal disorders which are frequently associated with aging and denture usage includes denture stomatitis, angular cheilitis, oral fungal infections, and traumatic ulcers.¹⁶⁻¹⁸

The rationale of this study was to evaluate the effects of denture on patient satisfaction with new set of dentures. One of the important determinants for success of complete denture therapy is past denture experience, therefore it should be considered during evaluation and assessment of completely edentulous patient. This study was aimed to determine the mean satisfaction score for patients with complete dentures and to compare the mean satisfaction score of patients with complete dentures with and without past denture experience.

METHODOLOGY:

It was a cross-sectional study conducted at Watim Dental College, Rawalpindi, from March to August 2018.

The ethical approval from the hospital ethical committee was obtained prior to the study. The subjects were selected via non-probability consecutive sampling. Inclusion criteria consisted of both male and female patients with age ranging from 35-80 years, who were selected for provision of complete dentures with or without any previous history of denture use. Exclusion criteria consisted of patients with a history of maxillofacial trauma, Parkinson's disease, myasthenia gravis, bulbar palsy, hyposalivation or xerostomia, terminally ill patient, non-cooperative or mentally debilitated patient and patient using antipsychotics or antidepressants, muscle relaxants. As a protocol all patients presenting to the hospital were examined in OPD and those patients who fulfilled the criteria were referred to Prosthodontic department for provision of complete dentures by specialist prosthodontist.

A total of 98 patients were selected for this study based on above mentioned criteria and were asked regarding previous history of denture usage. The dentures were fabricated by a single prosthodontic laboratory technician in the hospital. All subjects were instructed to wear their dentures during waking hours and to remove them before sleeping at night. Oral hygiene instructions were provided. Patients were

requested to return after one week after insertion and were interviewed by principal investigator for answering questions which were given in the questionnaire regarding their experience with the new set of dentures, in terms of three categories, that is, function which consisted of drinking, chewing, biting and speaking; comfort which consisted of denture tightness (in both arches), gagging and denture comfort in both arches; and appearance which consisted of shape of teeth, shade of teeth and general appearance. A five-point scoring system (poor=1, fair=2, good=3, very good=4 and excellent=5) was used. Total satisfaction score, out of 60, was calculated based on the scores in these three categories and filled in the proforma (function score= 20, comfort score= 25 and appearance score= 15). Follow up was ensured through telephonic contact.

Data was analysed using SPSS version 20. Descriptive statistics were calculated for both qualitative and quantitative variables. For qualitative variables frequency and percentages were calculated. For Quantitative variables mean and standard deviation were calculated. Mean± SD was calculated for satisfaction score among patients with and without past experience of denture usage. Independent sample t-test was used to compare quantitative variables. P values of less than 0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS:

A total number of 98 patients were selected for this study out of which n=52 (53.1%) were male and n=46 (46.9%) were female. The frequency distribution of patients is given in Figure-I. Among these n=98 patients 52.04% (n=51) were new denture wearers with no previous denture experience and 47.96% (n=47) were old denture wearers with previous experience of denture use. Mean±SD Scores for Function, Comfort and Appearance and total satisfaction score were calculated as shown in Table-I.

Independent sample t-test was applied to determine the difference in the scores for function, comfort and appearance for patient who had previous experience with denture wearing and those who had no experience and p-value was calculated as given in Table-II. As can be depicted from the table, the average scores for the patients who were new denture wearers were lower than those who had past denture experience for all tested variables. Independent sample t-test was applied to determine the difference in total satisfaction score between both genders and p-value was 0.024. Independent sample t-test was used to determine the difference in satisfaction score between age (which was grouped into 35-57 years and 58-80 years for this test) and a p-value of 0.001 was found to be significant.

DISCUSSION:

Patient satisfaction with their dentures is a complex phenomenon which is influenced by various factors. In addition to psychological factors, various other factors have an influence on patient satisfaction.¹⁹ The concept of success

of dentures were judged by the dentists and patients in a different way. Technical standards are considered the key point for the success of denture by the dentist. In contrast to this, patients evaluate them from the viewpoint of personal satisfaction. The patients who were well satisfied in their lives are also more satisfied with their dentures.²⁰ A patient self-assessment questionnaire allows patients an opportunity for discussing and sharing their viewpoint with their clinician,

Figure-I: Histogram Showing Frequency Distribution of Patients

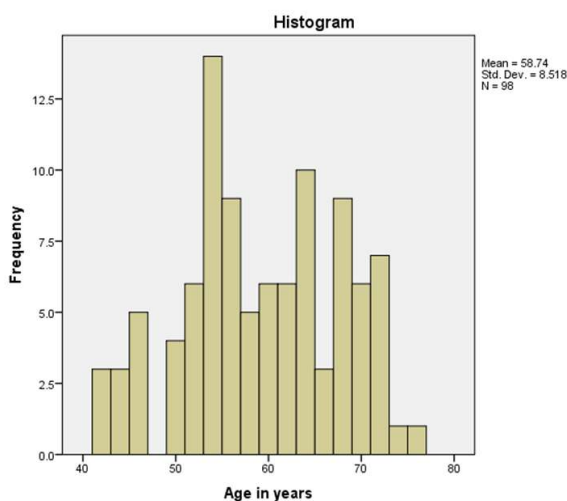


Table-I: Mean and Standard Deviation of Scores For Total Satisfaction Comprising Of Function, Comfort And Appearance

Category	Score	
	Mean	Standard Deviation
Function		
Drinking	3.01	0.902
Chewing	2.87	0.893
Biting	2.87	0.949
Speaking	3.36	1.048
Functional Satisfaction	12.153	2.822
Comfort		
Upper denture tightness	3.46	1.047
Lower denture tightness	2.76	0.850
Gagging	3.46	0.910
Upper denture comfort at rest	3.37	0.817
Lower denture comfort at rest	2.86	0.849
Comfort Satisfaction	15.877	3.026
Appearance		
Shape of teeth	3.31	0.913
Shade of teeth	3.31	0.913
General Appearance	3.57	0.952
Appearance Satisfaction	10.153	2.299
Total Satisfaction	38.193	7.311

Table-II: Independent Sample T-Test of Scores For Total Satisfaction Comprising Of Function, Comfort And Appearance Between New Denture Wearers And Old Denture Wearers

Denture Experience	Score				P-value
	Old Denture Wearer N=47		New Denture Wearer N=51		
Category	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	
Function					
Drinking	3.53	0.80	2.53	0.70	0.001
Chewing	3.26	0.84	2.51	0.78	0.001
Biting	3.36	0.76	2.41	0.87	0.001
Speaking	3.89	0.78	2.86	1.02	0.001
Functional Satisfaction	14.021	1.95	10.431	2.37	0.001
Comfort					
Upper denture tightness	3.96	0.85	3.00	1.00	0.001
Lower denture tightness	3.19	0.77	2.35	0.72	0.001
Gagging	3.85	0.75	3.10	0.90	0.001
Upper denture comfort at rest	3.72	0.65	3.04	0.82	0.001
Lower denture comfort at rest	3.15	0.75	2.59	0.85	0.001
Comfort Satisfaction	17.851	1.76	14.058	1.95	0.001
Appearance					
Shape of teeth	3.83	0.56	2.82	0.91	0.001
Shade of teeth	3.77	0.69	2.88	0.88	0.001
General Appearance	4.06	0.67	3.12	0.95	0.001
Appearance Satisfaction	11.617	1.26	8.803	2.21	0.001
Total Satisfaction	43.510	3.68	33.294	6.33	0.001

hence it is used in this study.²¹

According to a study by Samara RM, little influence is exerted on patient's acceptance of the new set of dentures by gender variation, although females appear to be a little more critical with their dentures as compared to males, particularly in terms of aesthetics.⁹ In our study a significant difference was noted in the total satisfaction score among males and females, which was not in agreement with a study by Knezovic-Zlataric and colleagues. This difference may be because of the difference in the population ethnicity as their study was conducted on Croatian adults, which further enforces the effect of geographic variability on population satisfaction. Although further studies on larger population may need to be conducted for confirmation.²¹ Current study results are consistent with another study carried out by Rania M Samara, at Princess Ayesha Medical Complex / Royal Medical Services, over a period of two years.⁹ Significantly higher mean scores were recorded in patients who have previous denture experience. The results of this study showed that patients with additional set of dentures exhibited improved function and comfort. In addition to this, patients appear to be more satisfied with their new denture aesthetics as well as they have more realistic expectations regarding aesthetics. Furthermore, the speaking ability also tends to be improved in these patients.⁹

The mean score of total satisfaction in this study was 43.5 ± 3.68 for old denture wearer which was much higher than new denture wearers (33.29 ± 6.33) and it was statistically significant and consistent with scores of another study and was also found to be significant.¹⁰ According to this study the mean score of function was found to be higher (14.02 ± 1.95) among old denture wearer as compared to new denture wearers (10.43 ± 2.37). It is found to statistically significant. This result is also comparable to another study in which mean score of function among old denture wearer was higher (19.30 ± 1.436) as compared to new denture wearer (17.23 ± 2.54).⁹

The mean score of comfort was found to be higher (17.85 ± 1.76) among old denture wearer as compared to new denture wearer (14.05 ± 2.05). This result is also comparable to another study in which mean score of comfort among old denture wearer was higher (24.40 ± 0.836) as compared to new denture wearer (22.56 ± 2.39).⁹ The mean score of appearance was 11.61 ± 1.26 for old denture wearer which is much higher than new denture wearers (8.80 ± 2.21). Mean score of appearance among the old denture wearer was found to be $14.84 \pm .561$ as compared to new denture wearer $14.59 \pm .959$.¹⁰ This result was not consistent with the result of our study because although the value was found to be higher among the old denture wearer as compared to new denture wearer, the result was not found to be significant.

Another study was conducted at Liaquat University Hospital Hyderabad and Jamshoro to evaluate the factors which

influence the patient's satisfaction with removable dentures. Sixty-six patients of both genders were included. More than 55% of the patients were comfortable with their dentures. 65 to 80 % patients showed their satisfaction in terms of retention, stability, speech, taste, chewing and communication. While 86.7% subjects experienced no pain or discomfort and 60% of subjects did not have a foreign body feeling with the use of dentures. Furthermore, 53.3% felt they will recommend the treatment to others. According to this study, the satisfaction scores were considerably higher in patients who were provided with the set of dentures for the first time.¹⁹

The limitations of this study included patient over a larger age group were selected, that is, 35-80 years, the status of residual alveolar ridge was not considered and the quality of previous complete dentures were not evaluated or considered in subjects who were old denture wearers. Improved stability and function of prosthesis can be seen in those patients who have an additional set of dentures. It might be due to a more developed neuromuscular control over their dentures. Speaking ability appears to be improved and these patients tend to have more realistic expectations in terms of aesthetics.

CONCLUSION:

Past denture experience has significant effect on patient satisfaction with their new complete dentures.

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