

A Survey to Determine the Chief Complaint of Edentulous Patients

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Abstract:

Background: Replacement of the missing teeth by prosthodontics treatment is very important for the restoration of the quality of life and restoration oral functions, masticatory ability, aesthetic, and preservation and maintenance of oral and general health. To promote the oral health, we need to know the oral status and then importantly the needs of the patient in terms of priority.

Objective: To determine the main problem for which the edentulous patients seek their dental rehabilitation.

Materials and methods: The study was carried out in department of prosthodontics Fatima Memorial Hospital Lahore, to determine the chief complaints presented by the edentulous patients. Sample size of 265 patients was selected. A questionnaire based Performa was developed and questions were asked from the patients. Patients were asked about the reasons for loss of teeth and their main complaint for which they are seeking treatment.

Results: Among males 9.39 % complained about esthetics, 66.44% about mastication while 24.16% about both esthetics and mastication. In females 19.82% complained about esthetics, 28.44% about mastication and 51.72% about both esthetics and mastication.

Conclusion: majority of the patient needed treatment for masticatory problems in which most of the patients were male. Females were more concerned about aesthetics. Treatment should be needs based for the successful outcome and improvement of the quality of life of the patient.

Keywords: Edentulous, Complete denture, Chief complaint.

Introduction:

Oral health on its own is always an important part of general health and the patient awareness about their oral health plays a significant role in determining the oral health status of the individual. Complete loss of teeth or edentulism, is just like to the dental death of the patient.¹ As the physical activities of a person decreases with decrease in general health of a patient, just like that tooth loss effectively decrease quality of life of the person, which leads to severe psychosocial problems in the patient's life.²

Replacement of the missing teeth by prosthodontics treatment is very important for the restoration of the quality of life and restoration oral functions, masticatory ability, aesthetic, and preservation and maintenance of oral and general health.³

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To promote the oral health, we need to know the oral status and then importantly the needs of the patient in terms of priority. Complete loss of teeth leading to edentulism results in compromise in both the functional and aesthetic sequel which disturbs the integrity of the overall masticatory system. The perception of the edentulism can be categorized the quality of life ranging from the feeling of just inconvenience to the feeling of severe handicap, because most of the patients consider tooth loss as loss of other body parts.⁴ Poor oral health and loss of teeth leads to decrease in dietary intake and poor nutrition status but also effect overall general health status of the patients.⁵

Patients perceived treatment needs are smaller than that professionally determined.⁶ The term "Need" but it has many conceptual meanings and interpretations although it seems to be very simple. Bradshaw in 1992, demonstrated four categories of needs; normative-need (professionally expressed), felt or subjective-need (patient or population wanted), expressed-need or demand which in fact refers to felt-need turned into action.^{7,8}

Patients with complete loss of teeth are often motivated personally to seek dental treatment for replacement of the teeth, when he/she sees another person with the same conditions who received treatment and drastically changed

their appearance and quality of life. Patients generally come to the prosthodontist with preconceived notion of dental procedure that will address their functional or aesthetic problems. They may be unaware of other alternatives that are available.⁹ It is the duty of the prosthodontist to inform their patients of all treatment options with the highest esthetic as well as functional potential. More importantly, the selection of other options can lead to results beyond what the patients brought in their mind was possible.⁸ It is assessed, surveyed and recognized in developing as well as developed countries that the standard of health services to the public expectation has not been provided. This can be either the patient's expectations were unrealistic, ideal or were not listened carefully.⁹ In order to satisfy the patients with the treatment it is very important to satisfy the complaints and needs of the patients. In order to know which type of need mostly the patients comes with to the prosthodontics, this survey was done and paper presented to minimize the patients problems, which can effectively leads to the best of quality of life improvement.⁶

Materials and Methods:

A cross sectional study was performed in the department of prosthodontics Fatima Memorial Hospital Lahore, on patients seeking treatment for their edentulous state. Sample size of 265 patients was selected in which there were 149 males and 116 females. Ethical approval was taken prior conducting study from the ethical committee of FMH.

After the approval of ethical committee of the institute, a questionnaire-based Performa was developed and questions were asked from patients after their informed consent. Patients were asked about the reasons for loss of teeth and their main complaint for which they were seeking treatment. The complaints were categorized as esthetic complaint, masticatory complaint and both esthetic and masticatory complaint.

Results:

Total number of males included in the study in which 14 persons complained about esthetic issue only, 99 complained of mastication while 36 complained about both esthetic and mastication. Total number of females included in the study were 116, from which 23 complained about esthetic problems, 33 complained about mastication problem while 60 complained about both esthetics and mastication (Figure 1).

Table 2 shows percentage distribution of complaints among gender. In males, 9.39 % complained about esthetics, 66.44% about mastication while 24.16% complained about both esthetics and mastication. In females 19.82% complained about esthetics, 28.44% about mastication and 51.72% complained about both esthetics and mastication (Figure 2 a&b).

Table 1. Description of Gender wise complaints distribution.

Gender	Number	Complaints		
		Esthetics	Mastication	Esthetics & Mastication
Males	149	14	99	36
Females	116	23	33	60

n=265

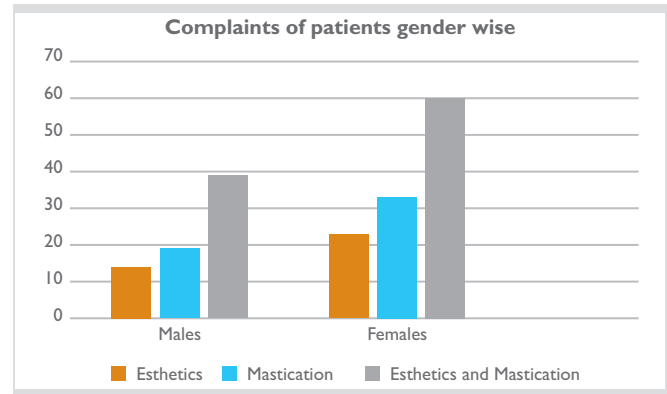


Figure 1. Graphical representation of gender wise distribution of complaints

Table 2. Percentage distribution of complaints among genders females

Gender	Number	Complaints %		
		Esthetics	Mastication	Esthetics & Mastication
Males	149	9.39 %	66.44 %	24.16 %
Females	116	19.82 %	28.44 %	51.72 %

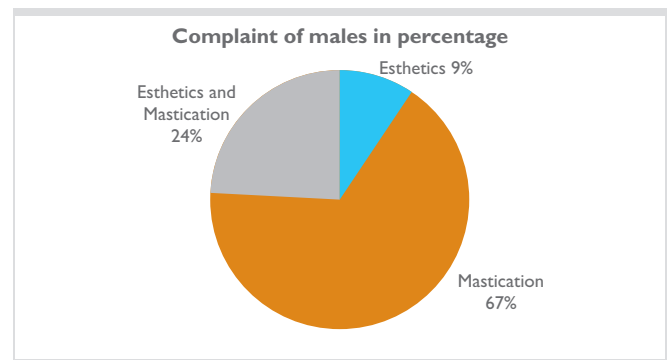


Fig 2.a. Graphical representation of percentage of complaints among males

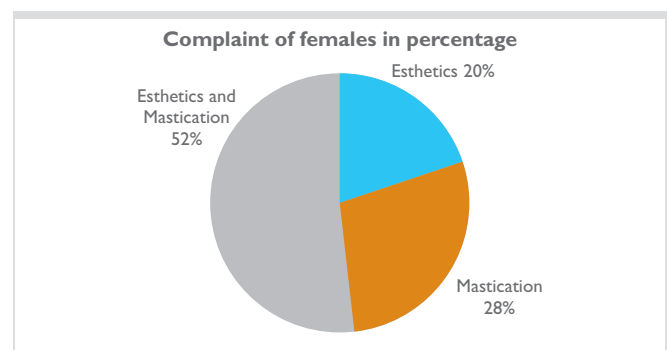


Fig 2.b. Graphical representation of percentage of complaints among females

Discussion:

Teeth are necessary for mastication, phonetics, esthetics, structural balance as well as for the comfort of an individual. With the loss of teeth, the above mentioned functions will be impaired or lost resulting in physical and physiological, psychological trauma to the individual.³ Additionally,

edentulism also affects the quality of life deeply along with its impact on emotional, physiological, and general status of health of an individual.⁴

It is typically observed that when an edentulous person comes to the dental clinic denture is the most common request, which is not evaluated by the dentist furthermore. This illustrates that the subject just needs a denture and the dentists are not giving importance to the analysis of the need which is actually dictating factor in the treatment of an edentulous subject. Many edentulous individuals may need a denture only for mastication, esthetics, phonetics, comfort or may be combination of all.^{2,13}

There is a definite need to assess individual awareness and immediate needs at initial appointments that improves our diagnostic skills and is essential in achieving goals of complete denture treatment.¹⁰ A questionnaire that is structured to include questions related to the needs and awareness can lead to several benefits. It helps in the establishment of communication between doctor and patient, builds confidence and trust, shows the concerns of a doctor and ultimately leads to helping the patient to present their problem in an effective way.^{6,9,16}

The present study was conducted by including 265 patients visiting Department of Prosthodontics, Fatima Memorial Hospital Lahore, seeking treatment for their edentulous state. Previously, questions were asked about the reason for seeking treatment received answers like, "we want dentures". Further details suggested dentures were needed due to esthetic problems, masticatory problems or both.

It can be derived from the results that males were most concerned about the mastication efficiency problem which was about 64.44% while females were more concerned about both the esthetics and masticatory efficiency problem which was about 51%. Moreover, females were more concerned about esthetics problems (19.82%) as compared to males (9.39%).

Patient's pretreatment expectation may influence treatment outcomes and treatment failure may result from mismatched perceptions and expectations of the subject and the dentist. Dentures are artificial substitutes and have their limitations, as documented in various textbooks and research work it is known that there are conditions where mastication or phonetics or esthetics may be compromised in dentures, so it is important to make the subject understand the limitations of a denture so that the subject can mentally prepare to accept the denture therapy.^{10,12} In the study majority of the females were concerned about their aesthetics and these patients even tried to hide their smile during the procedure which can make one think of the social problems they can face. The males who were mostly concerned about their masticatory efficiency were depressed about the situation as they could not enjoy their favorite food. Most of the patients even looked at other patients who are under treatment, especially the ones who are at the stage of denture insertion with expressions which just hides their crave for the dentures to improve their quality of life.^{2,11,15}

Conclusion:

The study was conducted to determine the patient's main concerns with edentulism so that they are provided with the best treatment they need. Need based treatment will significantly improve the quality of life and hence the success of the treatment.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

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Author Contributions

1. Nazia Yazdanie- Concept and paper writing
2. Shafqat Hussain- Concept, review and data analysis
3. Aamna Mansur- Concept and data presentation
4. Muhammad Irfan- Interpretation of results
5. Uzma Khalil- Interpretation of results
6. Sana Murtaza- Concept, data analysis and review