



AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ATTITUDE OF NURSES TOWARD DENTURE MARKING

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Abstract

Aims and objective: The purpose of denture marking is important for forensic and social reasons in case patients need to be identified individually. The Nurse plays a key role to assist the dentist in variety of clinical and non-clinical settings. The nurse must keep a record of the laboratory work that's needs to be done at end of each clinical session. There are instances where dentures are misplaced or missing in hospitals and old age homes. In such a clinical scenario marking the dentures will save lot of time and emotional stress. Hence a pilot survey was being conducted to know the attitudes of nurses toward marking dentures.

Material and Methods: The survey sample included a total of 30 nurses from sangareddy India. Close-ended questions were asked in relation to denture identification.

Conclusion: This study survey revealed that none of the dental nurses had the knowledge of the importance of denture marking. However strong correlation was noted between the dentures misplaced and the importance of denture marking. It was noted that the dental nurse who misplaced the dentures said that some sought of identification marks on the dentures would be helpful.

Keywords: Nurse, dentures, denture marking

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Introduction

Denture labeling is an essential requirement for identification of denture wearers in variety of situations. It is an important aid for identifying misplaced dentures in geriatric and nursing institutions. It is also helpful in identifying unconscious patients, recovered bodies of those killed in accidents and aviation disaster. Quick denture identification saves cost as well as emotional stress when other methods of identification fail.

Over the years several surface marking and inclusion techniques have been reported in the literature. The common surface marking techniques are Engraving with dental bur, embossing, and writing with fiber tip pen. Surface inclusion techniques include ID Bands, Paper strips, T Bar, Laser etching, Microchip, RFID Tags, Bar-coding, Photograph and Lenticular printing.

Nurse plays a key role to assist the dentist in variety of clinical and non-clinical settings. The role of nurse extends to managing documentation, communicating to all of the dental team, external agencies and to the patients. The nurse must keep a record of the laboratory work that's needs to be done at end of each clinical session. There are instances where dentures are misplaced or missing in hospitals and old age homes. In such a clinical scenario marking the dentures will save lot of time and emotional stress. Hence a pilot survey was being conducted to know the attitudes of nurses toward marking dentures.

Materials and methods

The survey sample included total of 30 nurses from sangareddy India. Data was collected through close ended questionnaires sent to following groups.

1. Dental nurses working in dental college and hospital in sangareddy
2. Dental nurses working in medical college and hospital in sangareddy

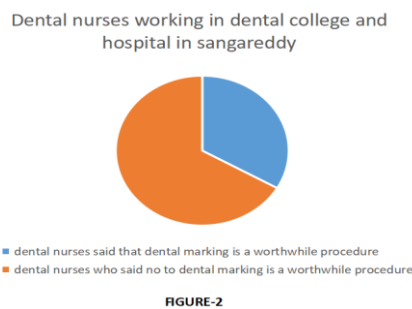
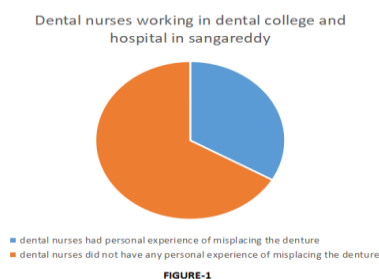
Close-ended questions were asked in relation to denture identification.

1. Do you have knowledge about denture identification?
Yes/No
2. Did you misplace any dentures?
Yes/No. If yes how many dentures were misplaced in a twelve month period?
3. Is denture marking important or not?
Yes/No

RESULTS

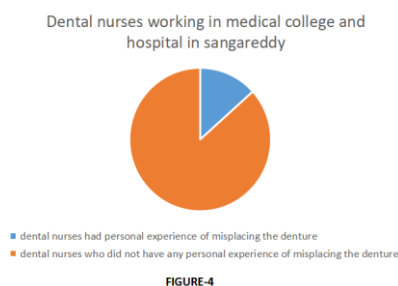
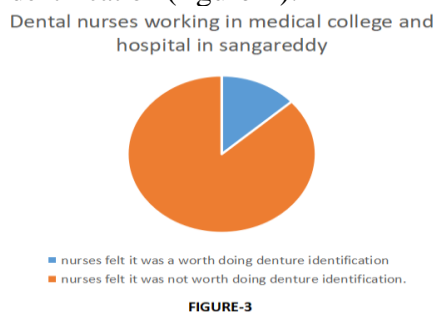
Dental nurses working in dental college and hospital in sangareddy

A total of 15 nurses responded to the questionnaire. None of the dental nurses were aware of denture identification. 5 of the dental nurses had personal experience of misplacing the denture (figure-1). Among the nurses who misplaced the dentures said some kind of marking on the denture would be helpful. Only 5 dental nurses said that dental marking is a worthwhile procedure (figure-2).



Dental nurses working in medical college and hospital in sangareddy

A total of 15 nurses responded to the questionnaire. None of the nurses were aware of denture identification. 2 of the dental nurses had personal experience of misplacing the denture (figure-3). Only 2 nurses felt it was a worth doing denture identification (figure-4).



Discussion

In a dental and medical setup, the nurse is very important not only to assist but also as the first contact for the patient. The nurse must make sure that they record all of the patient's information accurately or any dictation given by the dentist. The nurse must store the dentures properly and have them available for each patient arriving for their appointment. But in certain circumstances, nurse may misplace dentures and, in such situation, denture identification is very important.

This study survey revealed that none of the nurses had the knowledge of importance of denture marking. However strong correlation was noted among the dentures misplaced and importance of denture marking. It was noted that dental nurse who misplaced the dentures said that some sought of identification mark on the dentures would be helpful.

The importance of denture identification has long been acknowledged by most international dental association and forensic odontologist. In India this field is not fully developed due to lack of trained personnel, lack of training facilities and limited exposure to the subject. Considering the importance of denture identification it is necessary to teach denture marking in all teaching and training institutions.

In the best interest of society we dentist need to address this situation and strategies to change it should be explored without further delay.

Conclusion

The purpose of denture marking is important for forensic and social reasons in case patients need to be identified individually. In the best interest of society we dentists need to address this situation and strategies to change it should be explored without further delay.