



EDITORIAL

Paradigm shift to implant in dentistry!

Edentulism either due to single or complete loss of teeth lead to anatomical, esthetic and psychological consequences and need immediate attention to restore. Patient may be restored to normal state by replacing the edentulous space with either removable or fixed prosthesis. However, the type of prosthesis is governed by multiple factors including biological, functional and esthetic concerns. A 44-year Scandinavian study revealed that only 80% of Patients were wearing removable partial dentures after 1 year and the number further decreased to only 60% of the free-end partial dentures worn by patients after 4 years.^{1,2} Patients wearing the partial dentures often exhibit greater mobility of the abutment teeth, greater plaque retention, increased bleeding upon probing, higher incidences of caries, speech inhibition, taste inhibition and non-compliance of use.³⁻⁶

Lack of retention and stability in removable complete denture are major concerns for most of the patients. In a study performed by Misch⁷,

88% patients claimed difficulty in speech and 62.5 % cited the awareness of movement of mandibular denture. Low satisfaction level among both patients and dentists after removable prostheses is one of the reasons behind the paradigm shift to implant supported prosthesis. Dentists and public are becoming increasingly aware of dental implants owing to its predictable treatment and high success rate. Moreover, Implant supported prosthesis improves esthetic, phonetics, occlusion and also gives better psychological feeling of natural teeth. Recent advances in imaging like computed tomography and surgical guides have reduced the risk factors associated with implant placement significantly and made dental implants a popular treatment modality among specialists as well as general practitioners.

Studies are going on tooth repair and regeneration with the help of stem cells so we may expect another paradigm shift in future!

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