

Study of pattern of common chief complaints in patients seeking dental care in private dental institution of Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Introduction: Provision of proper dental health care depends on many factors like health manpower, infrastructure and compliance from the patients. Among all these the demand for dental health care is usually represented by chief complaints (CCs) form the patient which makes the basic pillar for further evaluation and management.

Aims and Objectives: To find out the pattern of chief complaints by the dental patients attending the private dental institution in Andhra Pradesh.

Materials and method: A hospital based cross sectional study was conducted at G Pulla Reddy Dental College and Hospital, Kurnool Andhra Pradesh in the month of July 2017. Details regarding age, sex and chief complaints or the reason for visiting the hospital was collected.

Results: A total of 1308 visited the hospital during the study period and all of them were included in the study. The demand for treatment was majorly from the 21-30 years age group (27.52%) followed by 31-40years and 11-20years age group. Toothache (32.3%) was the most common CC followed by decayed tooth (19.1%), wants to remove tooth (9.5%). The elderly age group had CC in the form of toothache (31.48%); wants remove the tooth (22.22%) followed by loose tooth (18.51%).

Conclusion: From this study it can be concluded that there are variations in dental visits with respect to different age groups and gender. Large scale studies with complete and accurate data collection will definitely aid dental care in a manner by which dental health care programmes at national level can effectively implemented.

Keywords: Chief Complaints, Dental, Treatment seeking.

Introduction

Provision of proper dental health care depends on many factors like health manpower, infrastructure and compliance from the patients. Among all these the demand for dental health care is usually represented by chief complaints (CCs) form the patient which makes the basic pillar for further evaluation and management.¹

It means the patient's perceptions are recorded in his/her own words which can be translated into demand for dental care.²

Various epidemiological studies have reported about the magnitude and severity of dental disorders among population by which the felt need or perceived need can be estimated.

The process of health seeking behavior for dental diseases and priority to treat them depends upon the problems that makes the patient to consult the dental practitioners.³ However very studies have been conducted to know about the chief complaints of dental patients in our country. Therefore this study was undertaken to find out the pattern of chief complaints by the dental patients attending the private dental institution in Andhra Pradesh.

Materials and Method

A hospital based cross sectional study was conducted at G Pulla Reddy Dental College and Hospital, Kurnool Andhra Pradesh in the month of July 2017. Patients were explained about the purpose

of the study and informed consent was obtained. Details regarding age, sex and chief complaints or the reason for visiting the hospital was collected. A total of 1308 visited the hospital during the study period and all of them were included in the study.

Results

The mean age of the study participants was 28.3 years. Females contributed a higher percentage (51.8%) for treatment seeking when compared to males (48.2%) (Table 1). The demand for treatment was majorly from the 21-30 years age group (27.52%) followed by 31-40years and 11-20years age group. There was statistically significant difference observed with respect to gender wise demand for seeking dental care ($p < 0.005$).

Table 2 depicts the gender wise distribution of study subjects according to the chief complaints. Toothache(32.3%) was the most common CC followed by decayed tooth(19.1%), wants to remove tooth(9.5%), the other chief complaints like broken filling, bad breath, dental checkup were uncommon reasons for seeking dental care.

Age wise distribution of chief complaints is shown in Table 3. The most common complaint reported by all age groups except in 1-10 years was toothache (32.49%) wherein decayed tooth was the common chief complaint. The second most common CC reported was

decayed tooth in all groups except in age group more than 50 years in which “wants to remove the tooth” as CC.

We noticed that according to the CC decayed tooth (41%) was highest in 1-10 years age group whereas wants to clean the teeth, filling the decayed tooth and want of dental clip were highest CCs in 11-20years, seeking dental check (1.38%) was more common CC in the 21-30years age group when compared to others. The elderly age group had CC in the form of toothache(31.48%), wants remove the tooth(22.22%) followed by loose tooth(18.51%).

Discussion

Our study reported that toothache (32.3%) was the most common reason for seeking dental treatment which was similar to study by Thangadurai M¹ (2015) among dental care facility at Pondicherry where it was around 32.5%. Studies done by Razak IA⁴(1987), Van Palenstein⁵(1990), Broughton AM⁶ (1991), Mosha HJ⁷(1993), Oginni AO⁸(2004) and by Abdullah BA⁹ (2007) reported the same findings with range from 28.3% to 42.1%.

Our study also noticed that decayed tooth (20.9%) was the second most reason visiting the dental care in 11-20 age group which was similar to findings reported in the study by n Ekanayake L¹⁰(2001). This is probably because of poor oral hygiene. In the same group it was observed that orthodontic treatment demand was high

particularly in females which similar to study by Abdullah BA⁹(2007).

In our study noticed that the demand for restorative care was high 21-30 whereas demand for prosthetics was more in 41-50 years and demand for extraction in elderly age group. Oginni AO⁸ (2004) reported similar findings with respected CC of elderly group. Therefore it can be said that demand for seeking dental care varies according to age.

Very few (12 out of 1308) patients had the reason of “dental check up” for visiting the dental health care which shows lack of awareness among young population for checkups and preventive dental care which is a common concern in developing countries, Freeman R¹¹ (1999) also reported the same.

Our study reported that acute conditions like pain was the apparent reason for seeking treatment most of the time which is due to late stage presentation to dental clinic which can be related to factors such as anxiety, financial costs lack of access. This was similar to study by Pekiner F¹² (2010) and also by Kakatkar G et al¹³ (2011). Kadaluru UG¹⁴ (2012) reported that cost was the major barrier for dental care utilization.

One of the limitation of our study is a single dental hospital based study. Correlating with the socioeconomic factors could have given better insight into the underlying reasons for not seeking the care. A large scale multi centric study involving public dental hospitals supported good data collection will facilitate in depth findings.

Table 1: Distribution of subjects according to age group and gender

Age group (in years)	Males n (%)	Females n(%)	Total n(%)
0-10	99(15.82)	96(14.21)	195(14.9)
11-20	140(22.31)	139(20.53)	279(21.33)
21-30	163(25.89)	197(29.21)	360(27.52)
31-40	88(14)	197(29.21)	285(21.78)
41-50	69(10.9)	139(20.62)	208(15.90)
51-60	39(6.2)	49(7.21)	88(6.72)
>60	33(5.22)	21(3.10)	54(4.13)
Total	631(100)	677(100)	1308(100)
X ² =19.3, p<0.005			

Table 2: Distribution of the chief complaints according to sex n(%)

Chief complaint	Male (n = 631)	Female (n = 677)	Total (n = 1308)
Toothache	194(30.8)	228(33.7)	422(32.3)
Decayed tooth	98(15.6)	152(22.4)	250(19.1)
Wants to remove the tooth	61(9.7)	63(9.3)	124(9.5)
Wants to clean the teeth	43(6.8)	28(4.1)	71(5.4)
Wants to fill the decayed tooth	29(4.6)	36(5.3)	65(4.9)
Wants to replace the missing tooth	32(5.1)	16(2.4)	48(3.7)
Wants to wear clip	11(1.7)	33(4.9)	44(3.4)
Loose tooth	20(3.2)	20(3.0)	40(3.0)
Sensitivity	17(2.7)	12(1.8)	29(2.2)
Forwardly placed front teeth	11(1.7)	15(2.2)	26(2)

Bleeding gum	14(2.2)	11(1.6)	25(1.9)
Pain in the gum	16(2.5)	5(0.7)	21(1.6)
Unerupted upper front teeth	13(2.1)	3(0.4)	16(1.2)
Broken filling	8(1.2)	5(0.7)	13(0.9)
Irregularly placed front teeth	7(1.1)	6(0.9)	13(0.9)
Dental check up	7(1.1)	5(0.7)	12(0.9)
Swollen gum	9(1.4)	3(0.4)	12(0.9)
Others	11(1.7)	36(5.3)	47(3.7)

Table 3: Distribution of the chief complaints according to age group n(%)

	0-10 (n = 195)	11-20 (n = 279)	21-30 (n = 360)	31-40 (n = 285)	41-50 (n = 208)	51-60 (n = 88)	>60 (n = 54)	All Ages (n = 1308)
Toothache	6(23.5)	60(21.5)	129(35.83)	110(38.5)	86(41.34)	38(43.18)	17(31.48)	425(32.49)
Decayed tooth	2(41.0)	58(20.78)	60(16.66)	43(15.08)	21(10.09)	4(4.54)	0(0.0)	248(19.32)
Wants to remove the tooth	2(1.02)	11(3.9)	36(10)	40(14.03)	21(10.09)	15(17.04)	12(22.22)	122(9.32)
Wants to clean the teeth	5(2.56)	22(7.88)	24(6.66)	17(5.96)	7(3.36)	1(1.13)	0(0.0)	70(5.35)
Wants to fill the decayed tooth	0(0.0)	23(8.24)	27(7.5)	9(3.15)	7(3.36)	1(1.13)	0(0.0)	62(4.74)
Wants to replace the missing teeth	1(0.62)	5(1.79)	12(3.33)	9(3.15)	21(10.09)	4(4.54)	5(9.25)	47(3.59)
Wants to wear clip	5(2.56)	26(9.31)	10(2.77)	1(0.35)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	43(3.28)
Loose tooth	6(3.07)	2(0.71)	0(0.0)	9(3.15)	7(3.36)	8(9.09)	10(18.51)	39(3.0)
Sensitivity	0(0.0)	3(1.07)	11(3.05)	6(2.10)	7(3.36)	4(4.54)	0(0.0)	28(2.98)
Forwardly placed front teeth	7(3.58)	15(5.37)	2(0.55)	1(0.35)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	27(2.06)
Bleeding gum	1(0.51)	7(2.50)	6(1.66)	9(3.15)	2(0.96)	1(1.13)	0(0.0)	26(1.98)
Pain in the gum	0(0.0)	2(0.71)	3(0.83)	3(1.05)	7(3.36)	1(1.13)	2(3.70)	17(1.29)
Unerupted upper front teeth	14(7.17)	1(0.35)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	15(1.14)
Broken filling	0(0.0)	3(1.07)	6(1.66)	1(0.35)	0(0.0)	1(1.13)	0(0.0)	13(0.99)
Irregularly placed front teeth	3(1.53)	6(2.15)	1(0.27)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	11(0.84)
Dental checkup	1(0.51)	1(0.35)	5(1.38)	1(0.35)	2(0.96)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	10(0.76)
Swollen gum	0(0.0)	2(0.71)	3(0.83)	0(0.0)	7(3.36)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	10(0.76)
Bad breath	0(0.0)	3(1.07)	1(0.27)	3(1.05)	2(0.96)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	9(0.68)
Deposits in the teeth	2(1.02)	2(0.71)	0(0.0)	3(1.05)	2(0.96)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	9(0.68)
Others	14(7.17)	14(5.01)	15(4.16)	12(4.12)	7(3.36)	5(6.68)	6(11.11)	70(5.4)
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Conclusion

From this study it can be concluded that there are variations in dental visits with respect to different age groups and gender. Large scale studies with complete and accurate data collection will definitely aid dental care in a manner by which dental health care programmes at national level can effectively implemented.

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