
A STUDY OF PATIENT'S SATISFACTION LEVEL WITH THEIR DENTAL APPEARANCE AND TREATMENT THEY DESIRE TO IMPROVE AESTHETICS AT SARDAR BEGUM DENTAL HOSPITAL PESHAWAR

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ABSTRACT

Objectives:

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the patient satisfaction level with their dental appearance and treatment they desired to improve their facial aesthetics.

Material & Methods:

This cross-sectional study was performed out among 400 patients who visited the Sardar Begum Dental Hospital. A structured, interviewer-guided questionnaire was used to identify patient satisfaction level with their general dental appearance and desired treatments. Descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation (SD) for continuous variables and frequency and percentage for categorical variables were determined. The chi-square test was used to compare the age of patient's satisfaction level with their dental appearance. The level of significance was set at 0.05.

Results:

Out of 400 patients, 39 % were males and 60% were females. Mean age recorded was 25.05±10.02 years. Of these patients, 64% were not satisfied with their general dental appearance. In addition, 59% were not happy with the color of their teeth, 51% regarded their teeth as poorly aligned. Dissatisfaction with tooth color was significantly higher in female than in male patients. Tooth whitening was the treatment most desired by patients (45.2%). 51% females, as compared to males, considered their teeth to be more poorly aligned i.e. and was 51%.

Conclusions:

Most patients in this study were not satisfied with their general dental appearance with a greater percentage of females expressing dissatisfaction than males. Age had an association with satisfaction level of the subjects. Unhappiness with tooth color and feelings of having protruding teeth also had a significant negative influence on patient satisfaction with general dental appearance.

Key Words:

Dental appearance, Satisfaction level, Desired treatment

INTRODUCTION

Physical appearance plays a key role in human social interaction and the teeth and smile are important features in determining the attractiveness of the face. Furthermore, the mouth is thought to be important in social interactions. Facial aesthetics seems to be a significant determinant of self and social perceptions. Facial appearance is not only seen as being more attractive but also more socially accepted by peers, teachers, employers, and others. Smiling is still considered to be one of the most effective methods of influencing people¹. A key role in human social interactions is dental appearance which is essential in determining attractiveness of a face .

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Tooth color, shape, tooth shine, appearance of gums, alignment, proclination and retroclined teeth, dental caries in anterior teeth, non aesthetic fillings and fractures all are significant factors affecting appearance of teeth.

The appearance of the teeth is mostly influenced by gender, age and education level. Almost all the people desire to have pearly white teeth³. Satisfaction with dental appearance is always associated with whitening of teeth. Whitening is among the most popular cosmetic dental appearances because it can greatly improve how teeth look⁴. A whiter, brighter smile is one of the first things that people notice about your appearance. It's no mystery that whiter teeth make us look better, younger, more attractive and more confident. This is why men and women of all ages are now opting for teeth whitening systems to improve their smile. Apart from teeth whitening, correction of mal-aligned teeth is also nowadays considered as an ultimate treatment for desiring an effective dental appearance although malocclusion is a common disorder and its treatment vary from patient to patient depending on their requirements⁵. Psychological and social impacts influence one patient to have orthodontic treatment. Even orthodontic treatment sometimes is functional requirement for a patient to have efficient aesthetics. Esthetics has become as important as function, structure and biology, until about the last two decades in dental practice⁶ as current advertising and the media in general emphasize the effect of a pleasant appearance because of its importance in many everyday situations.⁷ This fact leads to changes in patients' esthetic needs and consequence of dental treatment priority.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study were:

1. To determine patient's satisfaction level regarding their dental appearance.
2. To determine treatment they desire to improve dental aesthetics.

METHODOLOGY

It was a cross sectional study conducted at outpatient department at Sardar Begum Dental College and Hospital, Peshawar. Institutional ethical approval and informed consent was taken from every patient. Using 95% confidence interval a Sample size of 400 subjects was calculated by who sample size calculator. Subjects were selected by non probability Convenience sampling. Subjects who were willing to participate, having upper and lower natural front teeth from 2nd premolar of one side to 2nd premolar of other side and of age group 15 to 40 years were included to participate.

Data was collected from patients through a structured questionnaire and was entered and analyzed using the statistical software SPSS version 20. Descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation (SD) for continuous variables and frequency and percentage for categorical variables were determined. The chi-square test was used to compare the sex, age of patients who with their dental appearance. The level of significance was set at 0.05.

RESULTS

Out of 400 patients, 60% were female and 40% were male. Ages ranged from 15 to 40 years. Urban population was 26.2% and 73.8% of the people were from rural areas. 38% percent were married and 62% were unmarried. We found that 64% of these patients were not satisfied while 26% patients were satisfied with their general dental appearance and only 10% were neutral

Table 1: Satisfaction level with General dental appearance

SATISFACTION LEVEL	PERCENT
SATISFIED	26.0%
NEUTRAL	10.0%
DISSATISFIED	64.0%
TOTAL	100.0%

59.2% showed dissatisfaction with tooth color being the most common while satisfaction level with tooth color was found to be 25.8% and 15% were neutral (**Table: 2**)

Table 2: Satisfaction level with tooth color

STISFATION LEVLE	PERCENT
SATISFIED	25.8%
NEUTRAL	15.0%
DISSATISFIED	59.2%
TOTAL	100.0%

57.2% subjects were satisfied with their gums appearance, 33.2 % were dissatisfied and 9.2% were neutral with their gums appearance. In addition, some patients regarded their teeth as poorly aligned 51%. Others reasons for dissatisfaction included self-reported presence of caries 43.4% and non-aesthetic restorations 18%. Among major causes of dissatisfaction included malocclusion 47% , discoloured teeth 41.5% and 11% non aesthetic fillings. About the treatments they desired to improve their appearance it was found that 45.25% wished to have their teeth whitened, followed by orthodontic treatment 36.75% , restoration of tooth color 9.75% ,4.50% dental crowns 4.50% and other treatments 0.25%.(Fig: 1)

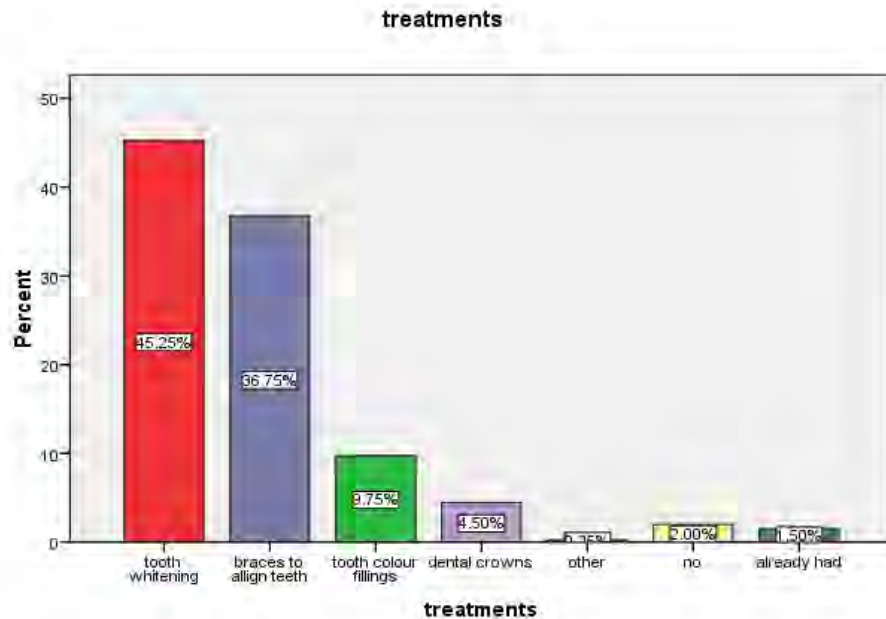


FIGURE 1: Treatments Desired To Improve Their Appearance

It was p value was found to be 0.007 which is highly significant showing that different age groups have different satisfaction level with their general dental appearance. Subjects of age 25-30 were highly dissatisfied with the general appearance. (Table: 4).

Table 4: Comparison of age and general dental appearance satisfaction level of patients

Age	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	P value
15-19	14	11	20	.007
20-24	27	11	54	.007
25-29	35	9	95	.007
30-34	17	2	72	.007
35-40	11	7	15	.007
	104	40	256	

Test of Significance: Chi square value: 33.126

Level of significance: $p < 0.05$. The chi square test was performed to find out the difference between age and general dental appearance, P value.

DISCUSSION

The present study shows that majority of the patients visiting the dental OPD at Sardar Begum Dental College were dissatisfied with their general appearance. Gender had an impact on the general appearance of dental esthetics. From our study it is obvious that females were more dissatisfied with the general appearance of their tooth compared with males. The higher dissatisfaction level for females could be related to the idea that the self-esteems of females could be affected from physical injuries more than males. Vallittu et al.,¹² indicated similar results. The appearance of the teeth was found to be more important to women than to men. Samorodnitzky-Naveh et al.,¹³ reported that females were more satisfied with the general appearance of their teeth from males in Israel. Age had an impact on dissatisfaction with dental esthetics. Adolescents and young adults with the age ranging from 25-30 were the most dissatisfied group, being the most dissatisfied with their dental appearance as also reported in a study in Finland¹⁴ younger patients were more dissatisfied with dental appearance. Alkhatib et al.,¹ showed that older people were more satisfied with their dental appearance in the United Kingdom.

CONCLUSIONS

From this study it can be concluded that most patients are dissatisfied with their dental appearance. Dissatisfaction was more common in females than in males. Young ages were more dissatisfied with dental appearance. Dissatisfaction with tooth color and feelings of having protruding teeth also had significant negative influences on patient satisfaction with their general dental appearance. The importance of tooth color was further supported by our finding that most patients would like to have their teeth whitened followed by Orthodontics treatment.

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