Knowledge, attitude and practice of dentists regarding provisional restorations: A cross sectional study

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Introduction: The importance of provisional restorations in fixed partial denture cannot be overemphasized. At the same time it is very important to understand the dentists’ opinions and practices regarding the same.

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study was done amongst the dental practitioners of Nagpur region in 2019. A questionnaire with total 11 questions including open and multiple-choice type was designed and validated by experts in the field. It was circulated using Google forms as well as printed version to a total of 100 dentists selected randomly from private dental clinics and dental institutes. Data from the completed questionnaires were analysed using the SPSS Statistical Software Package (version 25). Data was expressed in terms of frequencies.

Results: The response rate was 79%. In the given sample, 81% of dentists preferred giving provisional restorations in selected cases. 68% of them give provisionals in special cases like full mouth rehabilitation and laminates. Out of these, 61% use self polymerized acrylic resin, 34% use bis-acryl composite resin (Protemp IV, 3M) and 5% use heat polymerized resin as material of choice. 46% use indirect technique, 20% use direct technique and the rest use combination technique. Gingival inflammation was most commonly encountered problem by 51% of the dentists. 54% of the dentists preferred to give the provisionals for a period of 7-15 days. Only 23% felt the need to perform diagnostic wax up prior to giving provisionals.

Conclusion: In the given set of participants the level of knowledge and practices regarding provisionalization in fixed prosthodontics was found to be satisfactory. However, to make them more proficient continuing dental education programmes on recent advances in terms of newer materials and techniques should be conducted.

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