ELDERLY PATIENTS’ OPTIONS RELATED TO IMPLANT OVERDENTURES

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Abstract: Studies show that elders wearing implant overdentures have improved nutrition and quality of life. However, upfront costs of this therapy are high, and the income of elderly edentulous populations is low. This study was designed to measure the preferences of edentulous patients for mandibular two-implant overdentures using Willingness-To-Pay and Willingness-To-Accept, to assess the effect of long-term financing and to assess the desired role of health care plans in financing dental prostheses.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of new technologies in oral health provides an increasing array of treatments for dental problems. While the efficacy and effectiveness of a new technology can be evaluated in academic settings, the acceptance and adoption by practitioners, patients and the general public depends on other factors.

A very common form of economic evaluation of health technologies is cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA). In CEA, the incremental costs of an intervention are described relative to their incremental effectiveness, as measured by a clinical outcome or index of health-related quality of life.

For a long time conventional complete dentures have been the only treatment for edentulous patients, but now there has been a move to make a maxillary conventional denture over at least two-implant mandibular overdenture the new minimum standard of care.

It has been shown that a two-implant overdenture provides significantly greater patient’s satisfaction regarding the masticatory functions and oral health-related quality of life than new complete conventional dentures. Two-implant mandibular overdentures using ball attachments have also been found to improve the nutritional state of edentulous patients.

In addition, it has been shown in a recent cost-effectiveness study that the substantial clinical benefit of this type of implant overdenture, when compared with conventional dentures, can be obtained at a relative modest incremental cost. These results on the efficacy and the effectiveness, along with the economic evaluations of using the two-implant overdenture in edentulous elderly populations, led to the next step: measuring patient preferences for this therapy and a higher motivation for the practitioner to increase his meeting time so he can determine the patient to chose this kind of treatment.

Our country and East and South Eastern Europe are with limited available resources for health care, preference based measurement is an important step in technology diffusion for health services. However, the science of measuring population preferences is new to dentistry, and there are no data on the determinants of utilities and choice of dental treatments by the population at large.

Although a new technology may be more effective than the existing standard, in addition to being more costly, the intervention process may involve more time, discomfort or inconvenience for the patient. If so, its use in place of an existing, treatment might lead to some reduction, rather than improvement, in patient’s well-being during the intervention process. The conventional procedure are significantly less painful than the implants, these needs two surgical appointments and a waiting time of at least 4-6 mounts. The ability to capture both the intervention process and the resulting health states in patient preferences is one reason that we have recommended to evaluate willingness-to-pay or willingness-to-accept.

Fifty completely edentulous persons over the age of 65 years have participated in these studies, who had received either a complete set of conventional dentures or a maxillary conventional denture and a mandibular two-implant overdenture.

PURPOSE

This study was designed to measure the preferences of edentulous elderly patients for mandibular two-implant overdentures.
METHODS

Data Collection
The interest of patients for implant associated reconstructions along with the willingness to pay this kind of treatment was high. The patients received a form in which they had information’s about the efficiency and chewing comfort of patients wearing conventional dentures in comparison to patients with mandibular two-implant overdenture.

Patients from the two groups A and B in these study shared impressions, the advantages of implant overdenture were evident and the financier difference represents the cost of the implants. The implant overdenture treatment lasts and costs 3 times more than conventional dentures. Finding a way to make the payment easier for implant overdenture comes in help of patients, giving them the possibility of monthly instalments, these opportunity influences their treatment decision.

At the end of the therapy, the two groups of patients are asked to fill up questionnaire referring to the level of general satisfaction, comfort, stability and functionality of the reconstructions, prior to the treatment and 4-6 months after, these results are significant for future patients.

RESULTS

In this study, 50 edentulous individuals agreed to participate they were aged 65–80 years. 35 of them accepted the implant overdenture treatment and 15 the conventional dentures. There were no significant differences between the groups for age, gender, marital status, level of education and family income.

The majority of individuals were willing to pay more to receive an implant overdenture, obtaining so more comfort due the implants and also a chewing and functional effective than conventional dentures. A high percentage (80%) of patients that received implant overdentures was willing to pay monthly instalments.

DISCUSSIONS

In this study, mandibular two-implant overdenture was used for the majority of patients, they understood the advantages and were willing to pay more to receive a modern therapy. This study wanted to show the importance of correct information in relation with the patient’s decision about the treatment. The better oral health care, eating quality convinces the patient and they are willing to pay more to receive a mandibular two-implant overdenture. The results of these study shows that mandibular two-implant overdenture was better received than conventional dentures, in relation to oral health care. The number of patients willing to pay for an implant overdenture was much higher in case of monthly instalments opportunity. A high number of patients were totally unhappy with their prior conventional denture treatments.

CONCLUSIONS

This study shows that by correctly informing the patients about the benefits of mandibular two-implant overdenture, they accept this kind of treatment even if they have not had such a treatment before, they are willing to pay more and are more open to pay monthly instalments.

REFERENCES