

Evaluation of the Perception of Orthodontic Treatment among General Dentists in Konkan Belt of Maharashtra: A Questionnaire Survey

Rodrigues Lishoy¹, Jamenis Shilpa², Kadam Aljeeta³, Borade Pratik⁴, Shaikh Almas⁵

¹Post Graduation Student, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, Sinhgad Dental College and Hospital Pune, India

²Reader, Dept. of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, Sinhgad Dental College and Hospital, Pune, India

³Clinical Assistant/ House Officer, Government Dental College and Hospital, Mumbai, India

⁴Post Graduation Student, Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry, Sinhgad Dental College and Hospital Pune, India

⁵Post Graduation Student, Dept of Prosthodontics and Implantology, Govt. Dental College and Hospital, Nagpur, India

Abstract: A questionnaire based survey was conducted to evaluate the perception of treatment, knowledge, attitude and awareness in the field of Orthodontics amongst general dentists practicing Orthodontics in the Konkan belt of Maharashtra. We selected the konkan belt as the number of consulting orthodontists visiting the clinics of general practitioners in the konkanbelt were less. The questionnaire consisted of ten questions related to varied areas in Orthodontics. It was distributed to one hundred and fifty general dentists and non-orthodontic specialists. After analysing the data based on the questionnaire, we observed that the knowledge level among the study participants was moderately satisfying. Yet the need for more education of the dentists in certain areas of Orthodontics was deemed necessary. Knowledge regarding the most appropriate time to start with orthodontic treatment and whether orthodontic treatment always requires extraction protocol was observed to be inadequate. Improving the awareness amongst the practitioners in this area was concluded to be necessary to avoid complications and malpractice later in the future.

1. Objectives

- 1) To evaluate the perception of Orthodontic treatment among general dentists in Konkan belt of Maharashtra
- 2) To understand whether the orthodontic treatment delivered by the general dentists in this belt was satisfactory
- 3) To evaluate whether the general dentists had in depth knowledge of malocclusions related to orthodontics
- 4) To evaluate the knowledge and ability to correlate concepts in Orthodontics and other disciplines of Dentistry.
- 5) To assess the importance given to Orthodontics by general dental practitioners of Konkan belt

2. Materials and Methods

A Survey questionnaire containing 10 questions was distributed to 150 general dentists of the Konkan belt in Maharashtra who were practicing Orthodontic treatment in their respective clinics without calling specialist consultants for the same. The questions addressed various aspects like the understanding of general dentists about Orthodontics, their opinion regarding orthodontic treatment planning for patients and knowledge regarding functional appliances and similar concepts pertaining to orthodontic treatment of patients. The questionnaire was distributed to general dentists practicing in Khed, Roha, Ratnagiri, Malvan, Chiplun, Mangaon and Sawarda districts of the Konkan belt of Maharashtra.. Total number of dentists who answered the questionnaire was one hundred and fifty. The participants ranged from freshly passed out general practitioners who recently completed their BDS to the senior most practitioners with work experience of or more than 15 years. Data was compiled, analyzed and results obtained.

3. Survey Questionnaire

Sr. No	Survey Question	Reply with Mean Range
1	What is the best age to start orthodontic treatment?	12.75 ±7.91 years
2	What is the maximum age upto which orthodontic treatment can be carried out?	40.32 ±9.24 years
3	Are you aware of functional therapy?	Yes=97%, No=3%
4	Does Orthodontic treatment always require extraction?	Yes=80 %, No=20%
5	Do you call a specialist Orthodontist for opinion?	Yes=23%, No=77%
6	Are you aware that mini screws can replace molars for anchorage?	Yes=79%, No=21%
7	How long should the retainers be worn after fixed appliance therapy	Widely variable range extending from 6 months to life long
8	Do you deal with complicated cases by yourself?	Yes=64 %, No=36%
9	Do you take up cases with Mutilated dentition?	Yes=70%, No=30%
10	Do you deliver myofunctional appliances often?	Yes=60%, No=40%

4. Results

After the questionnaire survey, the results were summarized and it was noted that, the general dentists felt that the best range to start orthodontic treatment was in the age group of approximately 5 to 19 years of age. Orthodontic treatment according to the survey could be carried out till age groups of 30 to 50 years. The general dentists were well aware of the functional appliance therapy, however the percentage of dentists regularly delivering myofunctional appliances were less. The most striking part of the survey was that these general dentists of konkan belt had limited knowledge about the extraction protocol in Orthodontics. Knowledge regarding the most appropriate time to start with orthodontic treatment and whether orthodontic treatment always requires

extraction protocol was observed to be inadequate amongst these dentists.

5. Discussion

The questionnaire survey was conducted to evaluate the knowledge in the branch of Orthodontics amongst general dental practitioners of Konkan belt of Maharashtra. We selected the konkan belt as the number of consulting orthodontists visiting the clinics of general practioners in the konkanbelt were less. A Survey questionnaire containing 10 questions was distributed to 150 general dentists of the Konkan belt in Maharashtra who were practicing Orthodontic treatment in their respective clinics without calling specialist consultants for the same. The questions addressed various aspects like the understanding of general dentists about Orthodontics, their opinion regarding orthodontic treatment planning for patients and knowledge regarding functional appliances and similar concepts pertaining to orthodontic treatment of patients. The questionnaire was distributed to general dentists practicing in Khed, Roha, Ratnagiri, Malvan, Chiplun, Mangaon and Savarda districts of the Konkan belt of Maharashtra.. The survey revealed some interesting findings that reflected the existing scenario of orthodontic practice as perceived by general dentists. The knowledge and awareness prevalent among the study participants was moderately satisfactory. But the study results definitely highlight the need for more education of practice and treatment concepts in Orthodontics to the dentists who do not belong to the field of Orthodontics. The awareness among general dentists regarding basic facts and recent treatment options is mandatory.

6. Conclusion

From this questionnaire survey, it was observed that many General practitioners of the Konkan belt of Maharashtra were practicing Orthodontic treatments in their clinics. A few had detailed knowledge of the techniques they were employing during orthodontic treatment, however there were a few practitioners who still needed more training and knowledge before practicing orthodontics. At an average, after analyzing the data based on the questionnaire, we observed that the knowledge level among the study participants was moderately satisfying. Yet the need for more education of the dentists in certain areas of Orthodontics was deemed necessary.

References

- [1] Lim SH. Practive survey in 2010 by KAO (Part II). Clin J Korean AssocOrthod 2012;II:24-9.
- [2] Hassan AH, Amin Hel-S. Association of orthodontictreatment needs and oral health-related qualityof life in young adults. Am J OrthodDentofacialOrthop 2010;137:42-7.
- [3] Soh J, Sandham A. Orthodontic treatment need inAsian adult males. Angle Orthod 2004;74:769-73.
- [4] Jung MH. Evaluation of the effects of malocclusionand orthodontic treatment on self-esteem in anadolescent population. Am J OrthodDentofacialOrthop 2010;138:160-6.
- [5] Livas C, Delli K. Subjective and objective perceptionof orthodontic treatment need: a systematic review.
- [6] W.C.Shaw, M.Addy, C.Ray. Dental And Social Effects Of Malocclusion And Effectiveness Of Orthodontic Treatment ;A Review. Journal Of Community Dentistry And Oral Epidemiology. Vol 8, Issue No 1, Pg 36-45, Feb 1980.
- [7] W.C.Shaw, M.Addy, C.Ray. Dental And Social Effects Of Malocclusion And Effectiveness Of Orthodontic Treatment ;A Review. Journal Of Community Dentistry And Oral Epidemiology. Vol 8, Issue No 1, Pg 36-45, Feb 1980.