

A Survey about Awareness among Dentist Regarding Issuing of Death Certificate

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Abstract: ***Introduction:** Dentist not only needs to be trained in oral health management but also to deal with medical emergency and medico-legal aspects. The best way is to be prepared for medical emergency. The purpose of this study is to make dentist aware regarding the medico-legal aspects and to create awareness regarding the section 3.10 specified by dental council of India which deals with it. **Materials and methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was under taken from April to September 2019 with 173 private dentist across Maharashtra participated in it. The questionnaire consisted of mainly objective questions with yes or no reply. **Results:** Pts records were maintained by 48.6% of dentist. 47.4% of the dentist take written consent prior starting procedure. 49.1% & 52% dentists have faced medico-legal issue & medical emergency which were managed at the clinic respectively. 53.8% of the dentist have undergone basic life support training whereas 51.4% were aware of the laws regarding issuing of death certificate. 49.7% were aware of the DCI section 3.10 and regarding declaring death of the patient if patient dies on the dental chair. 46.8% were aware regarding issuing of death certificate by dentist. 49.1% were aware regarding the specified protocols and would like to undergo training for the same. **Conclusion:** The results of our study reflect an alarming situation where awareness needs be created among dentists regarding issue of death certificate.*

Keywords: Survey, Medico-legal, Death certificate

1. Introduction

As the quality of life is improving the quality of life expectancy is increasing. The laws are changing hence Dentist needs to be updated with the medico-legal aspect. Medical emergency can arise at any point of time pre, intra and post-operative. These emergencies in dental clinic can be alarming. Serious medical emergencies are not common but can occur. Dentist must be equipped to handle such events^{[1][2]}

Emergency can happen at any point of time and the patient can have cardiac arrest on the dental chair. Even tragic event can happen without any fault of dentist. Dentist needs to be prepared and know what to do^[3]

Numerous deaths among healthy children undergoing simple dental procedures were documented under as an episode under general anesthesia. Conditions were sub-standard in terms of monitoring, assistance and equipment's^{[4][5]}.

According to the revised dentists (Code of ethics) regulations 2014 which got notified in the gazette of india, the registered dental practitioner shall issue death certificate if patient dies during the procedure. According to the section 3.10 of the regulations, dentist can now declare death if a patient die on the chair under his care.

2. Materials and Methods

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted from April to September 2019 amongst the private dentist to determine their knowledge and to create awareness among the dentist regarding issuing of death certificate. The study comprised of 173 private dentist across Maharashtra Questionnaire consisted of 14 questions comprising of objective type of questions with a reply of yes or no. Informed consent was taken from all the participants.

3. Results

48.6% of dentist maintain records. 47.4% of dentist take informed consent of the patients. 49.1% dentists have faced medico-legal issue. 52% of the the dentist have encountered medical emergency at the clinic and they were able to manage the situation. 53.8% have undergone basic life support training. 51.4% are aware of the laws regarding issuing of death certificate. 49.7% are aware of the DCI section 3.10 regarding declaring death of the patient if patient dies in the chair. 46.8% are aware regarding issuing of death certificate by dentist. 49.1% are aware regarding the specified protocols and would like to undergo training for the same.

Q1 Do you maintain records of patient in your clinic?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	84	48.6	48.6	48.6
	2	89	51.4	51.4	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q2 Do you take written consent from patient prior starting any dental procedure?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	85	49.1	49.1	49.1
	2	88	50.9	50.9	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q3 Have you ever faced any medico-legal issue?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	85	49.1	49.1	49.1
	2	88	50.9	50.9	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q4 Have you time faced any medical emergency in your clinic?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	91	52.6	52.6	52.6
	2	82	47.4	47.4	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q5 If yes then were you able to manage it?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	91	52.6	52.6	52.6
	2	82	47.4	47.4	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q6 Have you undergone basic life support training?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	91	52.6	52.6	52.6
	2	82	47.4	47.4	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q6 Have you undergone basic life support training?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	93	53.8	53.8	53.8
	2	80	46.2	46.2	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q7 Are you aware of aware of law regarding issue of death certificate?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	86	51.4	51.4	51.4
	2	84	48.6	48.6	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q8 Are you aware of DCI section 3.10?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	86	49.7	49.7	49.7
	2	87	50.3	50.3	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q9 Are you aware that now dentist can issue death certificate if patient dies during dental procedure ?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	86	49.7	49.7	49.7
	2	87	50.3	50.3	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q9 Are you aware that now dentist can issue death certificate if patient dies during dental procedure ?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	86	49.7	49.7	49.7
	2	87	50.3	50.3	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q10 Are you aware that now dentist can issue death certificate if patient dies during dental procedure ?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	81	46.8	46.8	46.8
	2	90	52.0	53.2	98.8
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

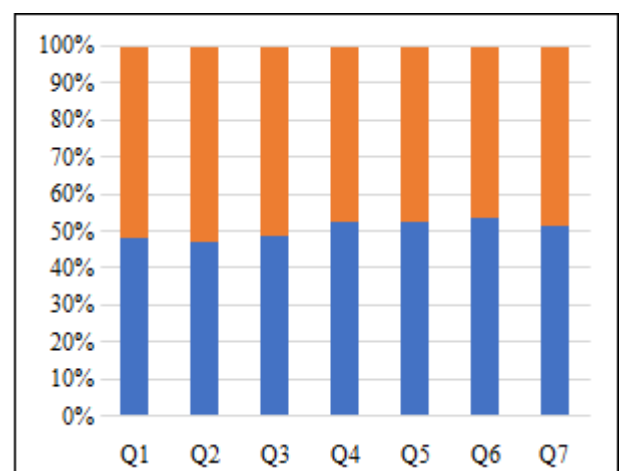
Q11 If yes are you aware of rules regarding issuing of death certificate?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	84	48.6	48.6	48.6
	2	89	51.4	51.4	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

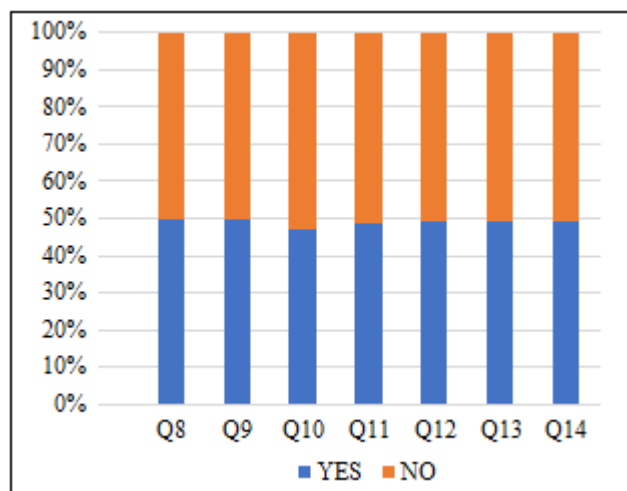
Q12 Are you aware regarding protocols for declaring death of the patient?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	85	49.1	49.1	49.1
	2	88	50.9	50.9	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q13 Do you agree regarding the decision made by DCI?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	85	49.1	49.1	49.1
	2	88	50.9	50.9	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Q14 Would you like to undergo training program?					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	85	49.1	49.1	49.1
	2	88	50.9	50.9	100.0
	Total	173	100.0	100.0	

Graph showing % response by dentist to the questions





4. Discussion

Incidence of medical emergency is less in dental practice but if emergency occurs, it can be life threatening. The management is of paramount importance. Dental clinic should be equipped with emergency drugs^[6]. In the present study, the main objective was to enquire whether dentists are aware regarding the latest updates and laws which have been upgraded and to create awareness if such situation arises.

The evaluation of patient includes thorough medical history and Monitoring vitals as well as blood glucose levels in patients^[1]. In our study 48.6 % of dentist take thorough medical history and maintain records.

According to the study conducted by Vijayalakshmi S Kotrashetti et al^[8] 63.6% dentist obtained written informed consent. According to our study 47.4% dentist took informed written consent, which is most important prior to any procedure. Informed written consent has to be supported by possibility of which have complications to be explained to the patient.

According to revised code of ethics 2014 Gazette of India DCI section 3.10 a Registered Dental Surgeon involved independently in the treatment of dental and oral surgical problems may be called upon to sign certificates, notifications, reports etc. He is bound to issue such certificates and to sign them. Documents relating to disability, injury in the oral and maxillofacial region and deaths occurring while under the care of such dental surgeons should be signed by them in their professional capacity for subsequent use in the courts or for administrative purposes etc. Such documents, among others, include the ones given at Appendix 4. Any registered dental surgeon who is shown to have signed or given under his name and authority any such certificate, notification, report or document of a similar character which is untrue, misleading or improper, is liable to have his name deleted from the Register. 49.7% dentist are aware of the section according to our study.

According to Gupta et al^[7] 42.1% of the dentist have received training in management of medical emergencies during the course whereas our studies 53.8% dentists

participated in the study have undergone basic life support training.

Effective management of emergency in dental office is ultimately the responsibility of dentist. Lack of training and inability to cope with medical emergencies can lead to tragic consequences and sometimes legal action, Thus it is the need of hour to update ourselves with the DCI legislations and rules from time to time.

5. Conclusion

Best way is to update with the latest guidelines of DCI. Attending continuing dental education programs consisting of workshops and hands-on courses in the field of dentistry should be made mandatory.

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