KAP survey on use of clinical photography by general dental practitioners

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ABSTRACT

Background: Photography is the science, art, and recording the images. It also finds an implementation for the purposes of dento-legal documentation, to improve the learning process, communication with laboratory technicians, educational motivation, and dental marketing. Aim: The aim of the study is to assess the knowledge and the use of clinical photography by general dental practitioners. Materials and Methods: The questionnaire was distributed to 100 randomly selected dentists in hospitals and dental colleges in Chennai. Some questions regarding the knowledge and their attitude toward the uses of photography in dentistry were asked. The data collected were computerized and analyzed statistically. Result: According to the survey conducted 43% of dentists who are enrolled in academics and 31% of private practitioners were more likely to use digital cameras for their case documentation. 35% of dentists use DSLR for their documentation, and 80% of them are documenting cases for <5 years. 40% of dentists think that digital camera is useful in treatment planning, 23% of dentists use for medico-legal reasons, and 21% of dentists are using digital photography for patient education.

KEY WORDS: Camera, Dental practitioners, Digital, Documentation, Photography

INTRODUCTION

Photography is the science, art, and recording the images. It also finds an implementation for the purposes of dento-legal documentation, to improve the learning process, communication with laboratory technicians, educational motivation, and dental marketing. The most common reasons for using digital photography in clinical dental practices are 1. Documenting the cases, 2. For Medico-legal purposes, 3. diagnosis, 4. clinical assessment and treatment planning 5. training and motivation of the patient, 6. Facilitation of communication with the patient, laboratory, colleagues, insurance companies, 7. staff training, academic and educational purposes and finally for 8. marketing purposes. These practices improve the status of the dental practice as well as the quality of work and services. The escalation of photography in dental work is a result of the development of digital photography, which replaces film photography.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 100 dentists in different dental colleges and hospitals in Chennai affiliated separately. A questionnaire was sent to them with 10 questions covering the following aspects: (i) Education background, (ii) do they think it is important to document cases, if yes what is the purpose in documenting their cases, and if yes how long they are documenting cases using DSLR, (iii) how do they document cases, for example, using mobiles or DSLR and using macro lenses, and (iv) if no what prevented them from documenting cases. Results were obtained and are tabulated.

RESULTS

Male practitioners were more likely than female practitioners to use clinical photography as mentioned in Figure 1. 97% of respondents think that it is important to document cases as mentioned in Figure 2. 37% of
dentists are using DSLR for their documentation and 80% of them are documenting cases for more than 5 yrs as shown in Figure 3. Most commonly 43% of dentists who are enrolled in academics, 31% of private practitioners were more likely to use digital cameras for their case documentation as represented in Figure 4. 40% dentists uses digital photography for Treatment planning 21% for Patient education 6% for Communication purposes 23% Medico legal reasons 1% for Marketing and 9% for Diagnostic purposes as mentioned in Figure 5. 37% dentists uses DSLR for their case documentation, 42% uses Mobile camera 11% DSLR with macro lens 8% DSLR with ring flash Figure 6. 32% of dentists feel that the cost of the equipment is preventing from using DSLR for their documentation, 7% of them were not much interested in photography, and 52% feel that it is time consuming as charted in Figure 7.

The result is represented in Table 1.

DISCUSSION

From this study, we can conclude that there is a sufficient knowledge and awareness among dentists...
Most of them are using DSLR and smartphones for their case documentation. There are studies which were conducted in the UK found that digital photography was used by 36% of dentists, to educate the patients and for legal purposes. Obviously, there is so much improvement in the photographic knowledge among dentists.

The results of the analysis showed that the degree of dental photography usage is linked to a number of relative factors. With regard to the age of dentists, it was revealed that almost half of young colleagues (to 35 years) use photography in their practice, while a positive answer to this question gave under one-third of older colleagues (over 35 years).

Factor “gender” has a significant impact on the distribution of responses. Male practitioners were more likely than female practitioners to use clinical photography. Young dentists are more likely to use digital photography for their case documentation.

**CONCLUSION**

Hence, from this study, we can conclude even though 95% of respondents think that it is important to document cases using cameras but because of some reasons such as lack of time and cast of the instruments were preventing the dentist from clinical photography. Dentists who are enrolled in academics and private practitioners were more likely to use digital cameras for their case documentation. Time consumption and the cast of the equipment prevent some dentist from taking photographs. Moreover, the common reason is due to medico-legal purpose; patient education is the purpose of taking photographs. Male practitioners were more likely than female practitioners to use clinical photography. Medico-legal uses, patient instruction, and motivation were cited as the most useful benefits of photograph.

**REFERENCES**


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