

DISCUSSION:

The replacement of missing teeth can be achieved by fixed or removable appliances, but generally it is accepted that removable dentures deteriorate in a shorter time period,[8] even though there are studies indicating more favorable results by careful planning, regular recall appointments, patient instruction and prosthetic adjustments[9][10][11].

The most frequent complication in the present study was the loss of retention which is in agreement with previous reports[12][13][14]. Most of the patients in the present study complained about the looseness and misfitting of their dentures. This complication is the main reason of need for replacement of their dentures. Additionally, loss of retention caused dissatisfaction of patients related to function. The loss of retention of the dentures may have impaired the patients' ability to chew. A denture sore spot which is the second frequent encountered complication might also be related to the misfitting of the dentures. Sheppard et al.[15] revealed denture looseness as the main cause of complaints of denture wearers, followed by pain which corroborates the results of our study. Regular patient follow up by the dentist is of utmost importance as it helps rule out most of the post operative complains as mentioned above. And the patients interest also is of importance as they have to attend to their regular checkups as called by their dentists.

CONCLUSION:

This study involved patients having sought prosthodontic treatment at a university clinic, which may be regarded as a limitation because the subjects already had complaints related to their existing dentures. Within the limits of this study it can be concluded that in any given population the most frequently encountered problems were loose dentures and difficulty in chewing. Majority of the patients were satisfied with their dentures but found it uncomfortable sometimes. This study thus gives an awareness to dentists as to how important it is to follow up their patients for best results.

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