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Awareness of dentists regarding immediate management of dental avulsion

Kamil Zafar

Aga Khan University Hospital, Pakistan

Background: Of all traumatic dental injuries, dental avulsion accounts for 16% of injuries. Immediate intervention is key to the long-term success of an avulsed tooth. Inadequate management of these cases leads to serious esthetic implications causing social embarrassment to the patient and ultimately an increasing the cost of definitive prosthodontic treatment.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to assess the knowledge of practicing dentists in Karachi regarding immediate management of dental avulsion.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in various dental colleges and teaching hospitals of Karachi, Pakistan from October to November 2016. A total of 333 dentists meeting the inclusion criteria were recruited to fill a self-administered questionnaire. Questions related to knowledge and practice regarding immediate management of dental avulsion was asked and then responses were categorized as good knowledge, moderate and poor knowledge. SPSS version 22 was used for data analysis. Chi-square test was applied to find the association of knowledge with different variables (specialty, qualification and years of practice).

Results: Only 11% dentist had good knowledge, while 46% had moderate and 43% had poor knowledge regarding immediate management of dental avulsion. There was statistically significant association of knowledge with specialty and qualification. Dentists belonging to specialty of operative dentistry had relatively better knowledge in comparison to other specialties.

Conclusions: Within the limitations of the study, we conclude that the knowledge of dentists in Karachi, Pakistan regarding immediate management of avulsion is inadequate. Knowledge was significantly associated with specialty and qualification of dentist.

Biography

Kamil Zafar has completed his Bachelor's Degree in Dental Surgery from Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi, Pakistan. He is currently pursuing Fellowship in Operative Dentistry at Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan. He has published three papers in reputed journals.

kamil.zafar@aku.edu

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