

Oral Jewellery- An Ornament or Curse an Online Survey Based Study

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Abstract

Aim: The objective was to evaluate the level of awareness amongst professionals from a non-medical background pertaining to use of oral jewellery.

Methodology: This was an online survey conducted using Google Forms. A total of 224 participants between age group 18-35 years participated in the study.

The participants were sent the link of the survey via a newly generated email id signed up only for the survey purpose. Participants replied to the questionnaire by clicking either yes or no for a particular question.

Results: The results showed that 90.2% of participants were aware of oral jewellery which was significantly high. 80.3% considered oral jewellery as a fashion statement while for 58% participants regard it as a status quotient.

80.6% considered oral jewellery to be detrimental to oral health which showed that they knew the risks involved. 87.3% subjects believed that it's a western trend. 86.4% participants considered that it should be strictly done by a dental professional and not just some random parlour. 90.6% considered the necessity for seeking a professional advice before going for oral jewellery. 74.7% participants considered that oral jewellery interferes with speech and eating. 48.1% regarded wearing oral jewellery was unprofessional. 74.5% showed the importance of maintenance of oral hygiene in the surrounding areas.

Conclusion: Thus, the results show that most of the non-dental professionals are aware of oral jewellery and significant no. knew the detrimental effects of these jewellerys. Besides, they considered seeking professional advice before getting such procedures done.

Keywords: oral jewellery, oral hygiene, oral health

Introduction

Beauty is a subjective interpretation. An object of beauty for some can be seemingly disliked by others. Generally, beauty is referred to as any entity which is in perfect harmony with nature. We live in an era where beauty no more means a balance and harmony with nature. Youth of today show enthusiasm in going to extremes to enhance their beauty quotient. Sometime, by simulating their contemporary cine stars. Youngsters today even experiment with their bodies to boost up their beauty quotient. Tattooing, different types of body arts, piercings, and more recently oral jewellery have become a fashion quotient. Dentists often come across patients who are willing to get tooth jewellery. No doubt such fancy procedures are a good source of earning. Doing so sometimes ethical values take up a back seat when on individual demands dentists and cosmetologists agree to pierce delicate intra-oral structures. Intra-oral jewellerys and accessories facilitate plaque accumulation, may

progress to cause inflammation of surrounding gingival and periodontal structures. There have been cases of severe metal allergies following use of oral jewellery.¹⁻⁵ Besides, there have been increased incidence of pain, scarring, infection, fracture of tooth structure, allergic reactions, and abscess formation. Cases have been reported whereby potential nerve damage was seen associated with oral jewellery.⁶⁻²³ Nevertheless in some rare instances life-rendering conditions have also been encountered due to airway obstruction and endocarditis.²⁴⁻²⁹ National Institutes of Health have identified tattoo parlours and beauty clinics as a probable vector for transmission of disease like AIDS, hepatitis etc.¹ The present study is one of a kind whereby an attempt to survey this fashion quotient was made among Btech graduates. The objective was to evaluate the level of awareness amongst students from a non-medical background pertaining to use of oral jewellery.

Aim and Objectives

This study aimed at conducting a survey among non-dental professionals to assess the awareness about the use of oral jewellery.

The objectives are as follows

1. To assess the awareness about the use of oral jewellery.
2. To assess an individual's perception about oral jewellery- whether it is an asset or risk.

Materials & Methods

This survey based study included 224 non-dental B-Tech graduates from age ranging between 18-35 years. All participants volunteered by themselves to participate in the study and filled up online survey form from their individual google browsers. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from institutional Ethical Review Board, Kothiwal Dental College & Research Centre, Moradabad.

Inclusion criteria

- 1. Subjects between age group 18-35 years.
- 2. Subjects may be of Indian as well as foreign ethnicity.
- 3. All the subjects who have any form of oral jewellery like oral tattoos, dental crystals, lip-piercing done or do not have any such ornaments will be included in the study.
- 4. Systemically healthy individuals.
- 5. Individuals who are not related to dentistry or medical field.

Exclusion criteria

- 1. Dental or medical professionals
- 2. Smokers or tobacco chewers.

Results

The results of their responses were displayed as pie-chart. Blue indicates YES and orange indicates NO.

- 1. Are you aware of oral jewellery ?



Yes	202	90.2%
No	22	9.8%

- 2. Is oral jewellery a fashion statement ?



Yes	179	80.3
No	44	19.7

- 3. Is oral jewellery a status quotient ?



Yes	127	58%
No	92	42%

4. Is oral jewellery detrimental to the health of teeth and related structures of mouth?



Yes	179	80.6
No	43	19.4

5. Is oral jewellery a trend imitated from the west?(Y/N)



Yes	192	87.3
No	28	12.7

6. Does oral jewellery hamper oral hygiene maintenance?(Y/N)



Yes	177	80.5
No	43	19.5

7. Is oral jewellery strictly to be done by a dental professional?(Y/N)



Yes	190	86.4
No	30	13.6

8. Is it necessary to seek a professional advice prior to going for oral jewellery?(Y/N)



Yes	202	90.6
No	21	9.4

9. Is oral jewellery esthetically pleasing?(Y/N)



No	155	70.8
Yes	64	29.2

10. Is the regular visit to the professionals for the maintenance of oral jewellery a burden?(Y/N)



No	183	83.6
Yes	36	16.4

11. Do you find a substantial number of people around you wearing oral jewellery?(Y/N)



Yes	51	23.5
No	166	76.5

12. Do you think wearing oral jewellery can lead to other health problems?(Y/N)



Yes	165	75.7
No	53	24.3

13. Is it easy to seek permission from the family for oral jewellery?(Y/N)



Yes	73	33.3
No	146	66.7

14. Is the high priced oral jewel worth its esthetic outlook?(Y/N)



Yes	94	44.3%
No	118	55.7%

15. Would you like to go for oral jewellery?(Y/N)



Yes	67	30%
No	156	70%

16. Are NRIs more fascinated towards oral jewellery than Indians? (Y?N)



Yes	165	77.8
No	47	22.2

17. Is there a male predominance over females for oral jewellery? (Y/N)



Yes	52	24.6
No	15	75.4

18. Do you think oral jewellery interferes with speech and eating? (Y/N)



Yes	165	74.7
No	56	25.3

19. Do they know the importance of oral hygiene in surrounding areas of oral jewellery? (Y/N)



Yes	158	74.5
No	54	25.5

20. Is it allowed at your work place to put on oral jewellery? (Y/N)



Yes	110	51.9
No	10	48.1

Observations

The results showed that 90.2% of participants were aware of oral jewellery which was significantly high. 80.3% considered oral jewellery as a fashion statement while for 58% participants regard it as a status quotient. 80.6% considered oral jewellery to be detrimental to oral health which showed that they knew the risks involved. 87.3% subjects believed that it's a western trend. 86.4% participants considered that it should be strictly done by a dental professional and not just some random parlour. 90.6% considered the necessity for seeking a professional advice before going for oral jewellery. 74.7% participants considered that oral jewellery interferes with speech and eating. 48.1% (almost half) regarded wearing oral jewellery was unprofessional. Thus, the results show that most of the non-dental professionals are aware of oral jewellery and significant no. knew the detrimental effects of these jewelleries. Besides, they considered seeking professional advice before getting such procedures done. 74.5% showed the importance of maintenance of oral hygiene in the surrounding areas.

Discussion

Oral Jewellery has flourished into an established million dollar industry encompassing several modalities of non-

invasive as well as invasive techniques. This octopus has not only trailed its arms deeper into the fashion world but has also taken a gigantic leap outside the fashion industry in recent years. Survey was conducted among non-dental professionals pertaining to the ignorance of oral health among common masses.

Intra-oral jewellery and piercings pose a greater risk of infection that may extend to deeper tissues and sometimes may cause systemic complications as well.

The objective of present study was to evaluate the level of awareness amongst students from a non-medical background pertaining to use of oral jewellery.

The male female ratio was almost 1:1. Their responses have made it clear that trend of oral jewellery has been imitated from west and celebrities. There is a sizeable amount of people who believe that oral jewellery poses potential threats as well as makes it difficult to maintain proper oral hygiene. It's difficult to seek consent for oral jewellery from parents. The oral jewellery should be given under the supervision of a skilled dental professional and not just any other beauty salon in the locality failing to do so may lead to following complications:³⁰

- Viral infections like HIV, HSV may be contacted before, during or after treatment.

- Massive hemorrhagic condition
- Unstoppable bleeding (due to negligence at hematological investigations)
- May cause potential nerve damage or paralysis.
- In case of improper jewellery selection e.g. too small ring size may result in capillary impingement and if too big ring is selected may result in tearing off of the flesh.
- Type IV hypersensitivity reaction or allergic reaction.
- In case of lower anterior teeth, gingival recession may perpetuate.
- Localized gingival overgrowth
- Altered sensation of taste
- Difficulty in chewing, swallowing etc.
- Slurred speech
- Drooling saliva
- Accidental aspiration of oral jewellery
- Fracture of crown portion and sometimes root fracture.
- Scarring or Keloidal formation.
- Cervical lymphadenitis³⁰

General dental practitioners should ideally discuss associated health hazards of oral jewellery with their patients. Patients must be well informed about oral hygiene measures of a new jewel and also management of existing ones. Deleterious effects of usage of such ornaments should be well explained to patients and an informed consent should also be taken. Patients should be advised to have thorough knowledge about the experience of person operating on them. All infection control measures and sterilization protocol should be taken into account. Routine haematological investigations should be run to rule out any blood borne disorder before going for soft tissue piercings.³⁰

Conclusion

The result of the survey clearly indicated that majority of the participants believe that oral jewellery can certainly pose various oral health issues. Nevertheless it is difficult to get the consent from parents of under-aged patients. A decent proposal to deal with this issue could be a written consent form signed by the parents before their ward undergo such treatment. Different variants of intra-oral jewellery include twinkles, grills, veneer jewels, rings, loops, studs, dazzlers etc. Going back to pre-historic times, such ornaments were a part of traditional beliefs and customs and have been associated with a no. of legends but now-a days it has become a fashion trend.³⁰

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