

Knowledge and attitude of parents and children about restorations, pulp therapy, and stainless steel crowns on primary molars

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Abstract

Introduction: Primary knowledge regarding tooth and its surrounding structure is essential for awareness about its health. A treatment outcome after pulp therapy and restoration with stainless steel crowns also affects parent’s willingness for treatment of their children.

Aim: To evaluate the knowledge & attitude of parents and children regarding pulp therapy and restorations of primary molars with stainless steel crowns.

Method: This cross sectional descriptive study included 200, 4-10 year old children having treated with SSC over the past 3-6months. Eventually, a validated child and parent centered self-report questionnaire was filled, having 23 questions about demographic information, six

questions about children’s attitude and 17 questions about parents’ attitude.

Result: The attitude score of children towards SSC is good but parents are not satisfied with appearance of stainless steel crowns.

Conclusion: In general, the knowledge of parents about deciduous teeth as well as their care and treatment modalities is good but somehow their attitude towards seeking treatments or newer advances is need to be improvised.

Keywords: Attitude ,Children, Parents, Stainless Steel Crowns

Introduction

Health is a universal human need for all cultural groups. Oral health in children plays a vital role as it lays down

the foundation for healthy permanent teeth. Maintenance of oral health should start before the first tooth erupts, and parents play a very important role in influencing their children's oral health¹. General health cannot be attained or maintained without oral health. The mouth is regarded as the mirror of the body and the gateway to good health². Oral health education begins from footsteps of awareness. Today, various dental health education programs have been conducted in schools and other settings; however, these efforts will not succeed until people are not aware of the importance of oral health and positive attitude toward treatment modalities. As the oral health of children depends on awareness of their parents, evaluation of need for implementation of oral health awareness programs is important³. This study aims to assess the amount of knowledge and attitude that parents and caregivers have about their children's deciduous teeth as well as children's attitude towards their treatments and if they are willing to treat diseases related to it and to create awareness about the importance of deciduous teeth, oral diseases related to it and their treatments.

Questionnaire preparation

To know exact opinion and attitude of parents and children about dental treatments, and placement, appearance, function and understanding the value of SSC, the questions were prepared based on the principles of attitude measuring question making and open review with some parents as well as children who referred to the pediatric dentistry department⁴.

How to fill the questionnaire

The parents were asked to help their children to fill the questionnaire and complete and confirm both questionnaires to the investigator. The purpose of the study was explained to parents and children, then the parents given with informed consent.

Data analysis

Children questions consists of five questions with three pictorial choices so that children can understand easily and likewise they can answer and Likart lexical scales: Positive (2)/ Neutral(1)/negative(0). Parents questionnaire were prepared consisting of seventeen items and scored like children's questionnaire.

Data were analysed used the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software, version 22 and simple descriptive analysis like frequencies and percentage were calculated. The significance level was considered as $P < 0.05$.

Results

Two Hundred questionnaires were totally filled (response percentage: 100%) by parents as well as children in this study. On analysing data it is found that 75% (n=150) children liked their metal cap while 33.5% (n=67) & 18.5% (n=37) children were didn't know or didn't happy with its look. 41% (n=82) children liked the session of cap cementation. 71% (n=142) children said that the dentists was friendly; whereas 41% (n=82) children didn't liked when people asked them about their metal cap but. 45.5 % (n=91) children liked the cap immediately when it was cemented.(Fig 1)

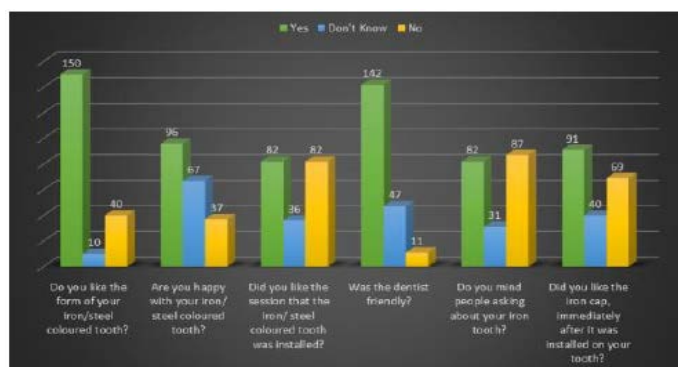


Fig 1: Frequency wise graph showing children knowledge and attitude

In case of parents, 17 questions were asked 70 % (n=150) parents had known that it's important to treat milk teeth.

Where 32.5(n=65) parents don't know about their children's pain experience & in that case 12.5% (n=25) parents don't know what should they do. 52% (n=104) parents oftenly give medication on pain, also 60% (n=120) parent thinks it's important to do pulp therapy for milk teeth and 60% (n=120) thinks it should be filled with cements followed by pulp therapy. 20% (n=40) parents don't know which type of cement or caps should they prefer; but 60.5% (n= 119) parents are interested in tooth colored caps. As 20.5% (n=40) parents didn't liked their child's metal caps but 57% (n=114) says their children had well accepted that cap. 11% (n= 22) parents don't know if dental team was friendly or not with their child & also 10.5% (n= 21) parents don't know about safety of metal caps. Also 50% (n= 100) parents thinks cements are more durable than crowns. Whereas still 28% (n=56) parents had no knowledge about but 67.5% (n=135) parents will definitely prefer it over metal crowns. (Fig 2,3 & 4)

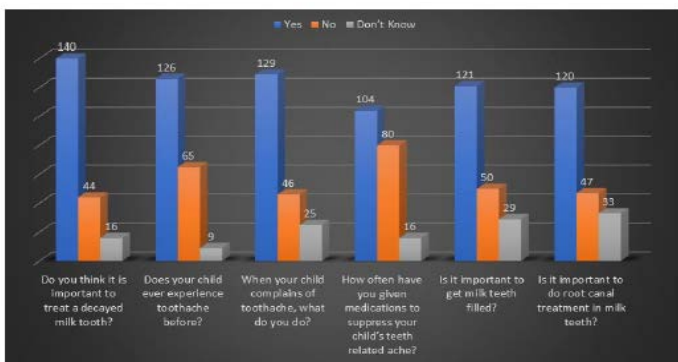


Fig 2: Frequency wise knowledge and attitude of parents

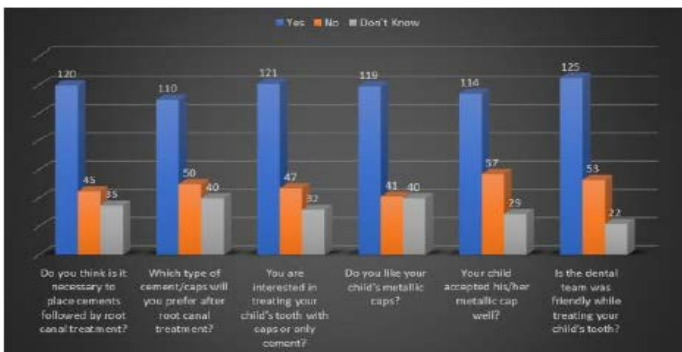


Fig 3: Frequency wise knowledge and attitude of parents

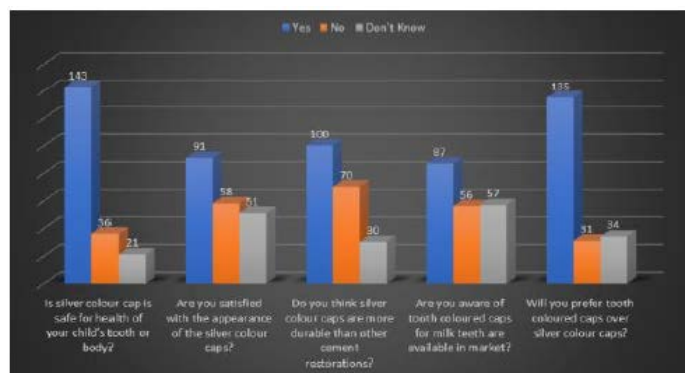


Fig 4: Frequency wise knowledge and attitude of parents

Discussion:

Results of the present study indicated that the overall knowledge and attitude scores of children and their parents toward the restoration, pulp therapies of posterior primary molars with SSC were good. The attitude scores of children toward appearance and acceptability of the crown and the experience of treatment procedure on the session of placement of the crown were good. However, almost half of the children hated being questioned about their iron tooth.

In addition, although the mean score of parents' attitude was neutral, few parents were not satisfied with the appearance of the crown. However, the majority of the parents reported that their children happily accepted the crown. Half of the parents thought crown treatment of the teeth interferes with the growth of permanent teeth. In the area of relationship with the dentist, treatment costs and tendency of parents to pay the costs, regarding the crown efficiency, there was a good attitude. It is concluded that the function of SSC must be explained more precious to parents.

Based on a study by Zimmerman et al⁵ on the attitude and knowledge of parents toward materials and methods used for their children's teeth, it was seen that the major concern and reluctance of the parents to restore primary molars of their children was due to reasons like (1) Esthetics features, (2) cost, (3) toxicity, and (4) durability.

It was clarified in this study that most parents were worried about SSC which was due to uncertainty of the beauty, cost and limited knowledge about SSC. Also in this study we have assessed parental knowledge and attitude about basic teeth information and their relative treatments.

Whereas this study dint included with parental economic status on which their attitude towards seeking treatment is dependent.

According to Page et al in their different study⁶ on the attitude of children toward SSC for primary molars, they suggested that around 90% of the children who got the treatment were satisfied with the crown. It was also suggested that most individuals were tensed about the pain and surgery, and the majority of them were happy with referring to clinics to have SSC on their primary molars but parents are still unaware of availability of tooth coloured crowns for deciduous molars in the market. Also, there were no significant differences between gender, age, and condition of parents, which was consistent with the results of our study. It should be noted that the crown had been placed in conventional technique with local anesthesia in the present study, however, Page et al. used hall technique.

In the study by Bahuguna R et al⁷ on Child's dental care awareness they have given that the attitudes of parents towards child dental care in this study were largely unfavourable and dental awareness and knowledge poor. There is an immediate need to cultivate and reinforce positive attitudes among parents and substantially raise their dental awareness through child dental health oriented programmes. In our study parental knowledge and attitude is neutral but still they are unaware of newer advances, hence dental public health programs should get carried out.

Bodhale P et⁸ in their study on Oral health maintenance and treatment modalities Suggested that the level of awareness among parents is relatively low and there is need for the implementation of oral health awareness programs for parents to change their attitude toward dental treatment of their children. In this study parents have knowledge about oral maintenance but their attitude towards it is poor.

Bell et al⁹ reported that SSC acceptability was good by parents and children and most children thought the treatment process were not difficult. The majority of the participants to the present study accepted the clinical process of the treatment and the children thought the treatment session was good. The result was similar to the findings of Bell et al. Therefore, the result is important as some parents, even some dentists, thought the child could not tolerate SSC treatment and it was considered to be a barrier.

The possibility of recall bias is one of the limitations in this study as the questionnaires were filled almost 3–6 months after SSC treatment. It is recommended to investigate the complicated relation between dental appearance, self-confidence, and social acceptance. It is certainly ideal to have white teeth, but the present study indicated that children are happy with teeth of different appearance.

Conclusion

In general, the knowledge of parents about deciduous teeth as well as their care and treatment modalities is good but somehow their attitude towards seeking treatments or newer advances is need to be improvised. In case of children, their attitude towards dentists as well as SSC is very good. Hence to change this scenario we should take up some awareness programs in schools or at any public places which will help to change ones attitude.

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