

Factors Affecting Prosthodontics Treatment Modalities for a Single Missing Tooth

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Abstract

The selection of treatment choices for the decision to replace a single lost tooth is made by several chairside, dental-related, and patient-specific aspects. The objective of this study was to determine the individual factors that impact the decision-making process for selecting a treatment option to replace a single lost tooth. 440 patients (224 males and 216 females) above 18 years old, attending the College of Dentistry, University of Basrah, Iraq, with only a solitary missing tooth were considered in this descriptive-analytical study. Each participant was surveyed using a standardized questionnaire to gather information on their age, gender, and educational background. Following the questionnaire, a trained examiner conducted a thorough clinical examination to determine the number and position of any lost teeth. Data were collected through a particular proforma to assess patients' choices about three distinct types of prostheses considering various influencing factors. Analysis was carried out on those variables using a t-test. Pain and discomfort, damaging the adjacent tooth, treatment cost, dental phobia, and treatment duration were significant elements that influenced the selection of the prosthetic type. Most participants indicated that the primary factor for declining a replacement for a lost tooth was the presence of pain and discomfort. The highest percentage of subjects (37%) was within the implant prostheses category; most of them were under 40 years old. The most important factor affecting the selection of fixed partial dentures was damaging the neighboring teeth in about 40%. Removable partial dentures were selected by most non-graduated individuals 40.2% most of them above 50 years old. The relation between treatment options and tooth position was significant $p\text{-value} = 0.04$. Dental implants are the most popular way to restore a single tooth gap, followed by fixed and removable partial dentures. Pain and discomfort were the biggest considerations in patients' tooth replacement decisions. Education and location of lost teeth affect treatment options significantly.

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Introduction

Contemporary dentistry acknowledges the significance of the patient's emotional and psychological state about their oral condition [1]. Teeth are crucial for maintaining a healthy self-image [2]. Dental caries and periodontal issues are primary factors leading to tooth loss; however,

trauma or congenital absence may also contribute. The loss of teeth has a range of detrimental impacts on an individual, leading to substantial impairments that can greatly disrupt social activities [3,4]. The implications of having lost teeth involve impaired chewing ability, diminished facial structure support, speech impairments, unappealing appearance, and

temporomandibular dysfunctions [5]. Failure to replace missing teeth can lead to neighboring teeth drifting and opposing teeth supra erupting into the empty area, which can complicate future treatment [6,7]. To address these challenges, it is imperative to immediately restore any teeth that are missing [8]. While many studies have indicated a decrease in edentulism, a