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Literature Abstract

A survey of treatment outcomes with removable partial dentures.

This study assessed patient satisfaction with RPDs to include factors such as retention, speech, esthetics, chewing, and comfort as a function of the influence of socioeconomic factors, Kennedy classification, construction, material, denture base shape, denture support, and number of missing teeth. Surveyed were 205 patients ranging from 38 to 89 years old; using a specially designed questionnaire, dentures were evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being dissatisfied and 5 being excellent. This scale was reversed for the level of comfort, with 5 being the maximum level of discomfort and 1 being the lowest level of discomfort. Zero was used to denote no discomfort at all. Prosthodontists evaluated the dentures based on quality of fit, extension and occlusion, number of clasps, occlusal rests, partial denture connectors, and quality of framework design on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor construction and 5 being excellent. A one-way Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to analyze the statistics, and a Kruskal-Wallis test determined significant differences between the variables. The majority of patients were satisfied with their dentures, and patients did tend to rate their RPDs on the higher end of the scale. Results revealed no significant differences in general patient satisfaction relative to the influence of age, gender, marital status, smoking habits, chronic diseases, education, socioeconomic status, denture hygiene grades, tooth loss, or previous experience with RPDs. A significant correlation was noted in patients who had a higher socioeconomic status: They were less pleased with the esthetics of their RPDs. A significant correlation was also seen among mandibular RPD wearers: the greater the number of missing teeth, the less comfort.

Knezovic Zlataric D, Celebic A, Valentic-Peruzovic M, Jerolimov V, Panduric J. *J Oral Rehabil* 2003;30:847–854. **References:** 34. **Reprints:** Dr Dubravka Knezovic Zlataric, Department of Prosthodontics, School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, Gunduliceva 5, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia. e-mail: dkzemail.hinet.hr—Josephine Esquivel-Upshaw, San Antonio, Texas

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