



**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTISE AMONG DENTAL STUDENTS ON
THE ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE AND AWARENESS OF
PATIENTS WITH POTENTIALLY MALIGNANT DISORDERS**

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The aim of the study is to assess the psychological state and awareness of patient with potentially malignant disorders among dental students.

Materials and methods: A questionnaire was used to collect data personally from 200 dental students. The questionnaire included student's knowledge, attitude and practice of diagnosis, special stains, biopsy, malignant transformation and the patients response towards treatment.

Results: Out of 200 dental students, 100 were post graduates and 100 were undergraduates. It was observed that postgraduates had more knowledge and experience in handling the psychological state of the patients with potentially malignant disorders than the undergraduates. And among undergraduates, Interns and final year students had more positive response than the third year students.

Conclusion: This study adds the global knowledge in the assessment of psychological state and awareness of patients with potentially malignant disorders proving a data from a group of dental students. From this study it can be concluded that the most important being a generally positive attitude towards disorder.

Keywords: Psychological State, Carcinoma, Malignant Disorders

INTRODUCTION

Cancer of oral cavity and pharynx are the public health problems resulting in great number of deaths and suffering. Cancer of the oral cavity accounts for more than 3% of all the malignancies [1, 2]. Oral squamous cell carcinoma accounts about 92-95% of all oral cancers [3]. It was observed that many oral squamous cell carcinoma develops as a result of potentially malignant disorders [2-4]. Screening and early diagnosis of the potentially malignant oral disorders are the means to control the further progression of the disease. Dentists plays an important role in diagnosis the lesion, educating the patients about the lesion and treating them. The best way to manage the disease is by providing awareness about the lesions, early diagnosis and providing accurate treatment.

The level of knowledge, attitude and practice among dental students on the psychological state and awareness of the potentially malignant oral disorder is important for better diagnosis and to control the further progression of the lesion. Inaccurate diagnosis, delay in the diagnosis, not providing habit cessation counseling may have implications for both the patient and the practitioners [5]. Hence the present study was aimed to assess the awareness of the potentially malignant oral lesions and psychological state of the patients with potentially malignant disorder and about the malignant transformation.

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Self-administered questionnaire were sent to the 100 undergraduate dental students and 100 post graduate dental students of various departments. The completed

questionnaires were collected immediately. Confidentiality of the participants was guaranteed and the informed concern of the participants were obtained.

The questionnaire consisted of 14 questions of which 9 questions were answered with the option of 'yes' or 'no' and 3 questions had the option 'yes', 'sometimes' and 'no'. The questionnaire assessed the knowledge about the potentially malignant bv disorder, diagnostic methods, relation of oral habits and potentially malignant disorders, malignant transformation of potentially malignant disorders, patients attitude towards the malignant transformation, treatment and follow up of the patients. The collected data were entered in the Microsoft Excel windows and statistical analysis was done.

RESULTS

(Figure 1, 2) shows the response of the subjects. The response rate was 100%. 100 under graduates and 100 post graduates participated in the survey. It was observed that 97% of the undergraduates and 100% of the post graduates were able to differentiate between the various potentially malignant disorders. 85% of the undergraduates and 97% of the post graduate had better knowledge on the use of biopsy and special stains. 91% of undergraduates and 97% of postgraduates were able to educate about the malignant transformation. In total 73% were able to counsel about the malignant transformation. About 85% of the patients were willing for the treatment and 75% of patients were reported for review and recall.

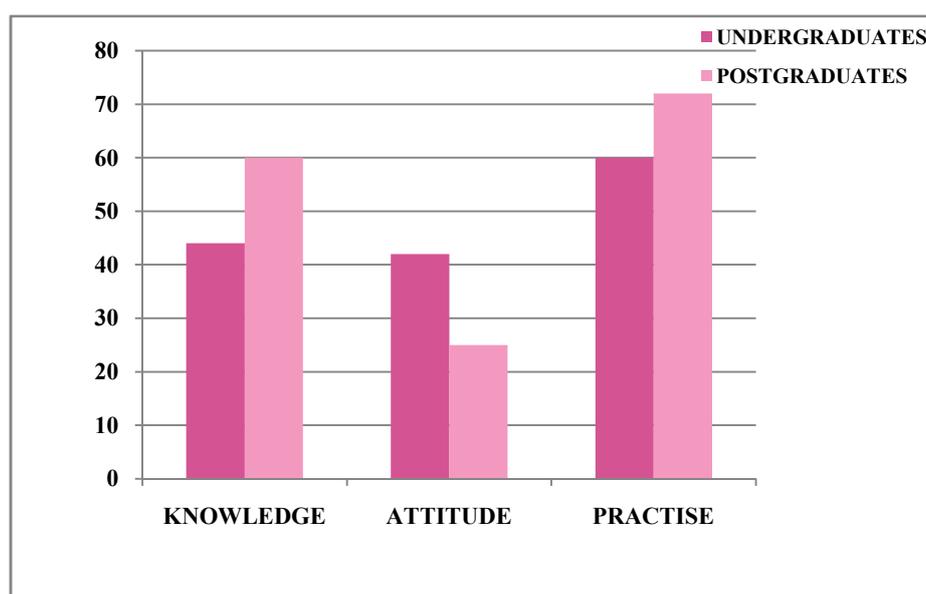


Figure: 1

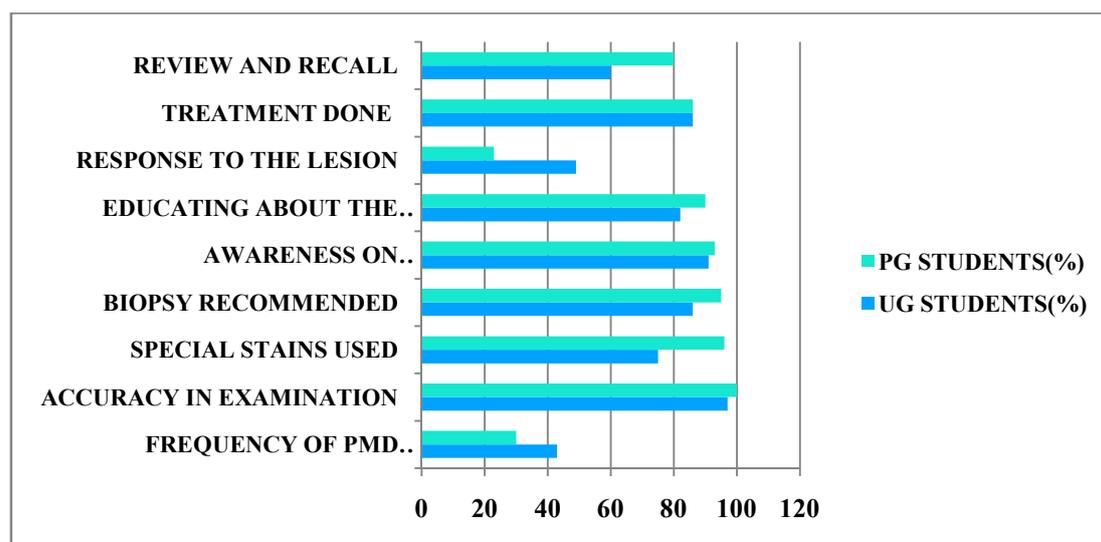


Figure: 2

DISCUSSION

Early detection of oral cancer is the most effective means to improve survival and to reduce morbidity, disfigurement, treatment duration and associated costs [6]. Delay in diagnosis has been considered as a significant factor which compromise the survival and worsening the treatment outcome [7].

The present study was conducted among 200 dental students out of which 100 were undergraduates and 100 were postgraduates.

From the results it was observed that 97% of UGs and 100% of PGs were able to differentiate between each PMDs 96% of PGs were aware of the practice usage of special stains and suggest biopsy.

90% of PGs were aware and were able to educate on the malignant transformation and it was only 82% for the undergraduates

PGs marked that 80% of patients were willing for the treatment whereas UGs marked only 70%. This interpreted that patients were willing to get treated by the PGs.

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