EVALUATION OF USE OF FLEXIBLE DENTURES AS ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR PARTIAL EDENTULISM TREATMENT

Faculty of Medical Sciences, Goce Delcev University, Stip, North Macedonia

Katerina Zlatanovska, Natasa Longurova, Julija Zarkova Atanasova, Ljubica Proseva, Sonja Rogoleva Gurovski, Ljupka Arsovski

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Background:	The aim of this study was to evaluate the use of flexible dentures as alternative solutions for partial edentulism treatment over a period of one year in the territory of the municipality of Stip, North Macedonia.

Methods and materials:

This research was conducted in the period from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018. During this one-year period, a survey and clinical examination was carried out on a total of 60 patients wearing flexible dentures. The age of the patients who entered our research was from 29 to 70 years and were divided into three groups: G1 - from 29 to 41 years old, G2 - from 42 to 55 years and G3 - from 56 to 70 years. All subjects were clinically examined and filled out a specially made questionnaire consisted of questions related to the aesthetics, comfort and adjustability of flexible dentures, as well as the frequency and manner of maintaining oral hygiene. The data analyses were based on the respondents in the questionnaires and calculated using Statistical software SPSS for Windows version 23. A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: 42% of patients belonged to age G2, 57% were male and 43% were female. 67% were satisfied with the aesthetics of flexible prostheses, and 100% with durability. 85% of the respondents were satisfied with the comfort of the flexible prostheses. 68% of subjects needed 2 weeks to adjust to the flexible prosthesis. Based on the performed examination, 72% of the examined patients fall into Kennedy Class I.

Conclusion: Flexible dentures stand in a superior position in fulfilling the various patients' demands for more retentive and aesthetic treatment needs.