



## COMPLETE DENTURE PROSTHESIS: A SURVEY OF DENTISTS' ATTITUDE AND KNOWLEDGE IN JAMMU CITY, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**Rimsha Ahmed\***

Registrar, IGGDC Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir.



\*Corresponding Author: Rimsha Ahmed

Registrar, IGGDC Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir.

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### ABSTRACT

Complete denture prosthodontics remains a fundamental aspect of dental practice, especially in regions with an aging population. This study aimed to assess the attitudes of dentists in Jammu City towards the fabrication and provision of complete dentures. A structured questionnaire was distributed among 120 registered dental practitioners. The data were analyzed to evaluate practitioners' preferences, perceived challenges, and educational preparedness. The results indicate a mixed attitude, with a significant portion showing reluctance toward complete denture cases due to time constraints and patient expectations. The study highlights the need for enhanced training and awareness programs to improve confidence and attitude towards complete denture prosthodontics.

**KEYWORDS:** Complete denture, prosthodontics, dentist attitude, Jammu, survey, removable prosthesis.

### INTRODUCTION

As complete dentures function in the oral cavity, they must be fashioned so that they are in harmony with normal neuromuscular function. The challenges associated with designing complete dentures to optimally occupy the edentulous space are substantial in the light of the aggressive and progressive changes that accompany edentulism and the functional dynamics that define the oral cavity. In addition to simply replacing missing oral tissues, complete dentures serve to structurally redefine true spaces and potential spaces within the oral cavity. With advances in material science and the development of innovative clinical techniques, prosthodontic advantages of various techniques may be incorporated into any complete denture treatment. So, this study was conducted to assess the Attitude and Knowledge of practitioners in Jammu city regarding complete dentures. The current study seeks to analyze not only the general attitude but also the underlying factors that influence decision-making in prosthodontic care, such as clinical comfort, patient expectations, material preferences, and the integration of new technologies like digital denture design.

### MATERIALS AND METHOD

A cross-sectional descriptive survey was conducted among 120 practicing dentists in Jammu City. A validated, self-administered questionnaire comprising 20 items was designed and distributed, either in person or via email. The questionnaire covered domains such as the frequency of complete denture cases handled per

month, perceived difficulty of the procedure, confidence levels, satisfaction with undergraduate training, and interest in further education. Responses were collected over a period of two months. Descriptive statistics were calculated using SPSS version 25, and trends in attitudes were analyzed to identify potential areas for intervention. Charts and graphs were generated to visually represent the frequency of responses and the correlation between variables such as years of experience and confidence in denture provision.

### RESULTS

Out of the 120 questionnaires distributed, 102 were returned completed, yielding a response rate of 85%. The results revealed several key insights:

- 63% of respondents reported handling fewer than five complete denture cases per month, indicating a relatively low case volume.
- 48% perceived complete denture cases as more challenging compared to fixed prosthodontic procedures.
- 55% of dentists rated their confidence in complete denture treatment as moderate, while only 20% reported high confidence.
- A significant 70% believed that their undergraduate education did not adequately prepare them for managing complete denture cases.
- 60% expressed interest in attending continuing dental education (CDE) programs or workshops to improve their skills in this area.

## DISCUSSION

Complete denture prosthodontics remains a fundamental aspect of dental practice, especially in regions with an aging population. This study aimed to assess the attitudes of dentists in Jammu City towards the fabrication and provision of complete dentures. A structured questionnaire was distributed among 120 registered dental practitioners. The data were analyzed to evaluate practitioners' preferences, perceived challenges, and educational preparedness. The results indicate a mixed attitude, with a significant portion showing reluctance toward complete denture cases due to time constraints and patient expectations. The study highlights the need for enhanced training and awareness programs to improve confidence and attitude towards complete denture prosthodontics.

The findings of this study reflect a somewhat hesitant attitude among dental practitioners in Jammu towards complete denture therapy. The low frequency of such cases in clinical practice suggests a declining focus on removable prosthodontics, potentially due to the increasing popularity of implant-supported options. Many respondents cited a lack of sufficient training and practical exposure during their undergraduate studies as a major reason for their lack of confidence. Moreover, several dentists expressed difficulty in managing patient expectations regarding aesthetics, retention, and adaptation, which can be time-intensive and psychologically demanding.

Interestingly, more experienced dentists (with over 10 years of practice) showed slightly greater confidence, suggesting that hands-on clinical exposure over time contributes positively to attitude and success in denture cases. The desire for further training and workshops underscores the gap in continuous professional development specific to prosthodontics.

International literature supports these findings. For example, Fenlon et al. (2018) emphasized that clinical performance in complete denture therapy improves with focused postgraduate training. Additionally, Singh et al. (2021) observed a decline in denture-related treatments among Indian practitioners, calling for renewed emphasis on traditional prosthodontic techniques.

## CONCLUSION

Dentists in Jammu City exhibit a moderate to low inclination towards complete denture treatment, largely influenced by perceived difficulty, inadequate training, and complex patient expectations. Addressing these issues through improved dental education curricula and robust continuing education opportunities can help enhance the quality of care provided to edentulous patients. Future policies should also consider supporting prosthodontic services through better clinical infrastructure, mentorship programs, and integration of digital technologies for easier denture fabrication and patient satisfaction.

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