

Changing Trends in the Outpatient Dental Visits during the COVID – 19 Pandemic in a Tertiary Care Hospital

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Abstract

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a worldwide public health crisis with associate new closedown of major institutions and non-emergency services. Disruptions across the country in dental hospitals light-emitting diode to challenges in addressing patient's dental complaints. The current study aimed to analyse the distinction within the pattern of the patient dental visits throughout the pandemic amount as compared to it of the pre-pandemic amount in an exceedingly tertiary care hospital. This retrospective study was administrated by retrieving the patient information from the diagnostic register of the Department of Oral medication and Radiology for an amount of 1 year. That was retrieved from 24 Sept 2019 to 23 March 2020 was classified underneath the pre-pandemic amount and also the data from twenty fourth March 2020 to twenty fourth Sept 2020 was sorted underneath the pandemic amount. Patient information relating to the age, gender and clinical identification was recorded and classified underneath 3 main categories: "Emergency", "urgent" and "elective". 7550 patients throughout pre-pandemic amount and 4035 patients throughout the pandemic amount visited the dental hospital throughout the study amount.

Keywords: Pandemic; COVID-19; Emergency care; Acute dental pain; Urgent dental care

Introduction

The pandemic caused by the Coronavirus illness (COVID-19) halting the supplying throughout the world. It resulted in new nationwide internment in many countries across the planet, extending for many weeks as a live to regulate unfold of the illness. This was followed by gradual relaxations resulting in recommencement of health care services in an exceedingly phased manner. The governing bodies place forth strict orders that any kind of routine care ought to be avoided and solely emergency services could also be provided [1]. This disruption of the quality of care protocols in dental hospitals across many countries light-emitting diode to challenges in addressing patient dental complaints. The Centre for the illness management and interference (CDC) free its pointers for dental settings in response to the COVID – nineteen pandemic that became the framework for dental tending suppliers across the world. The planet Health Organization (WHO), the National Health Service (NHS), the yank Dental Association (ADA) and, the yank Dental Hygienists' Association (AHDA) had conjointly printed their recommendations and pointers [2]. Each country, region and state changed the rules in keeping with their rate of infection and regional needs. The Dental council of Bharat (DCI) free the dental clinics protocol, personal protection for doctors and workers, and conjointly classified the dental emergencies. Once the dental clinics were reopened, clinicians were schooled to defer elective or cosmetic treatment to the patients. The gap of emergency services in dental hospitals once weeks of complete closedown saw an advance of patient in-flow with a good array of cases starting from acute pain conditions to elective care desires [3]. Therefore the current study aimed to analyse the distinction within the pattern of the patient dental visits throughout the pandemic amount as compared to it of the pre-pandemic amount in an exceedingly tertiary care hospital. The COVID-19 pandemic was declared a public health emergency by the planet Health Organization (WHO) and has light-emitting diode to health crisis and economic fallout. Several countries followed a nationwide internment to regulate unfold. All institutions were closedown except essential commodities and emergency hospital services [4]. This had an enormous impact on delivering dental health care services worldwide. Dental treatment procedures involve terribly

shut proximity of the patient and also the medical man inevitably resulting in violation of physical distancing norms. Also, the utilization of high speed hand piece and unhearable instruments in practice causes aerosol generation and any increase the chance of infectious agent transmission [5]. Taking these problems into consideration, the Dental Council of Bharat (DCI) provided associate consultive to dentists across the state to treat patients in dental hospitals solely on emergency basis. Every state restrictive bodies habitually monitored and changed the advisories supported the speed of infection at the amount of your time and also the resources and infrastructure on the market for coping with matters. Studies are conducted to assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the emergency department visits and hospital admissions in health care systems [6] examined the trends in emergency department visits in five completely different states of us of America within the initial few months of the COVID-19 pandemic and discovered a decrease in emergency visits throughout the pandemic and emphasised the importance of teaching the final public relating to creating emergency sorting visits for serious diseases and injuries. WHO assessed the dynamical trends in USA, island and Peurto anti-racketeering law [7] performed a retrospective study to analyse the dynamical trends of ocular trauma. They discovered that there was a major decrease within the eye injuries throughout the pandemic.

Studies have conjointly addressed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the use of emergency dental services [8]. the current study is exclusive as there are not any documented studies in scientific literature that compared pre-pandemic and pandemic records. During

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Received: 02-Nov-22, Manuscript No. did-22-81140; **Editor assigned:** 04-Nov-22, Pre QC No did-22-81140 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 21-Nov-22, QC No. did-22-81140; **Revised:** 28-Nov-22, Manuscript No did-22-81140 (R); **Published:** 30-Nov-22, DOI: 10.4172/did.1000166

Citation: Zalewska M (2022) Changing Trends in the Outpatient Dental Visits during the COVID – 19 Pandemic in a Tertiary Care Hospital. Dent Implants Dentures 5: 166.

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this study, the info has been consistently classified underneath the 3 sub-classifications of “emergency”, “urgent” and “elective dental care” to analyse the dynamical trends within the patient dental visits. In the gift study, we tend to found that in the pandemic amount, the proportion of emergency dental visits were considerably higher. The results conjointly disclosed that in the pre-pandemic amount, acute dental pain was the foremost ordinarily encountered dental emergency (71%). Whereas, throughout the pandemic amount acute dental pain comprised of all the emergency care patients (100%) that visited the dental patient department for treatment [9]. The modification within the trend discovered during this study may be attributed to varied factors. Restriction of movement throughout the two months’ internment amount hindered the patients from seeking prompt care and inability to receive the desired treatment. Additionally, patients can also be designedly avoiding or delaying dental visits because of the worry of infection. Extra charges for the private protecting instrumentality any intercalary to the treatment expenditure for the patients. Also, because of the notice regarding the restriction of dental services throughout the initial pandemic amount, the dental procedures were any delayed by the patients [10]. WHO according that half participants delayed dental visits and treatment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Analyzed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the hospital admissions for dental infections. They noted that in the pandemic amount, quite common fraction of the patients WHO got admitted with severe dental infections had already contacted their dentists for antibiotic prescription. In the gift study, acute dental pain comprised all the cases underneath the emergency class. These results were in accordance with the study conducted wherever the most common dental emergencies encountered were severe dental pain from pulpal inflammation. Assessed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the use of emergency dental services in China. The proportion of dental and oral infections were considerably raised from pre-COVID to COVID amount and also the incidences of trauma saw a pointy reduction. We tend to discovered similar findings throughout the pandemic amount wherever there was a pointy increase in acute dental pain and no according cases of external body part trauma. A come by the quantity of traumatic accidents may be attributed to the travel and traffic restrictions obligatory by the internment. Self-quarantining at homes, closure of faculties might have conjointly resulted in an exceedingly small variety of trauma incidences. Conjointly noted an identical trend within the reduction of overall trauma cases throughout the pandemic amount [12]. In the gift study, throughout the pandemic, there was a notable increase within the cases referred from medical hospital for dental clearance. Also, a lot of cases were noted with dislodged restorations and crowns, and, there was a come by cases of periapical and odontology symptom. This alteration within the trend may be attributed to the re-opening of the dental patient departments once the internment amount and delayed reportage of patients because of absence of symptoms from dislodged crowns and restorations. [13] WHO assessed the impact of COVID-19 on utilization of dental services by patients visiting tertiary care centre in city, Pakistan. Their results found that acute pulpal and odontology conditions were the leading reason for visits within the pre-COVID amount. Whereas, throughout COVID amount redness and area infections were the first cause followed by acute pulpal and odontology conditions, non-emergency complaints and facial trauma. Elective dental visits were considerably higher throughout pre-pandemic amount as compared to the pandemic amount ($P < 0.001$). Restoration of unhealthy teeth and extraction of well root stumps were the most important a part of elective care throughout pre-pandemic amount. But a 3rd of them visited for oral prevention. To the contrary, throughout the pandemic, quite a 3rd of the patients according for oral prevention.

One third of the patients wanted elective care for dentistry issues. 30.6% of the cases underneath elective care were youngsters with pre-shedding quality of teeth. Rathore K planned the rules to be followed by medicine dentists throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and inspired the use of tele-consultation services performed a study in European nation to look at the medicine dental emergencies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They counseled youngsters to chew on onerous food substances like fruits and vegetables, to stimulate the loss of the first tooth by complete mechanical removal from the bony support to avoid unessential visits to the dental hospital for extractions [14].

Conclusion

The present study has some limitations. Patients WHO had directly visited the emergency sorting or trauma sorting and had not later on visited the dental patient department were excluded from the study. This might have presumably resulted in lesser incidences of external body part trauma. The frequency of antibiotic and analgesic intake of the patient before the visit couldn’t be documented. The results of the current study solely reflects the dynamical trends from one tertiary care hospital. The results of the current study has given United States associate insight into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and utilization of dental services by the patients. The implications of this pandemic on the dental health of the general public, its impact on the use of the dental hospital services, particularly emergency care services were unmarked. Hence, the findings of the current study highlights the necessity for higher preparation in providing emergency and imperative care services in times of such similar pandemic things. There was a notable modification within the patient trend of the dental visits throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as compared to the pre-pandemic amount. Emergency dental services were utilised at a better rate throughout the pandemic amount as compared to the pre-pandemic counterpart. Understanding this scenario is preponderant in predicting the long run dental desires [15].

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