

Mental Attitude in Complete Denture Patients: A Review

Debarchita Sarangi

Senior Lecturer, Department of Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge, Institute of Dental Sciences, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar 751003, Odisha, India

Abstract

Patient evaluation is the first clinical step of Complete Denture fabrication. Besides finding out intra-oral state, the clinician also evaluates general well-being and also extra-oral state. In general well-being, the psychological status of the patient should be evaluated. Evaluation of the mental attitude is a very important factor in determining the success of the complete denture. This begins immediately when the patient enters the dental office. Patients attitude and their expectations from the treatment should be understood. If required certain modifications and conditioning by the dentist should be done for better acceptance of the treatment and a good outcome. This article is a review of the classifications proposed for evaluating the mental attitude of the patient.

Keywords: Mental attitude, Prosthodontic treatment, Classification; dentures; complete.

Introduction

The loss of a tooth affects the physiology of mastication, speech, esthetics, and also on the patient's psychology, thus having an overall impact on the quality of life of patients, irrespective of age, gender, economic status, etc. This is even more obvious in completely edentulous patients, especially in the geriatric group. Therefore, De Van stated that we should meet the mind of patients before we meet the mouth of the patient which means that the psychological state should also be examined even before the procedures for treating the edentulism.^{1,2,3} This determines the acceptance of the completely edentulous patient to the complete denture. Sometimes a patient with an ideal intra-oral condition may have less acceptance, but a patient with unfavorable conditions may have better acceptance and outcome. Thus, studying the mental attitude would determine the patient's acceptance for the treatment, patient's

temperament towards the dentist and expectation from the treatment which will altogether determine the success of the treatment.^{3,4,5} This article is a brief overview of the various classification of mental attitudes proposed for edentulous patients along with their clinical importance.

Various Classifications:

Ideal Patient: There are four traits of the responses of an "ideal patient" who needs denture, according to Winkler. They are: the patient realizes the need for the treatment; wants the prostheses; accepts them and learns to utilize the dentures by giving attempts.⁶ O'Shea considered a geriatric edentulous patient "ideal", when the patient is compliant, sophisticated, and responsive to the treatment.⁷ But, these cannot define the patient's attitude and dictate the very relative treatment outcome, rather the psychology should be analyzed and profiled.

M.M. House Classification^{8,9,10}:

This classification has been described in TABLE I.

Table I: Types of patients and their clinical impressions in M.M. House classification.

Type	Clinical Impressions
Philosophical mind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- reasonable, calm, and involved in the treatment procedure at every step.- understand the treatment- listen to the dentist's advice and are willing to follow the instruction.

Type	Clinical Impressions
Exacting mind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disciplined, strict, may have precise demand and may ask for a guarantee - dentist may have to give a little more effort after which the patient listens to him and follow his advice. - if the patient had a previous denture which was dissatisfactory, then he may doubt the present denture also. But, once satisfied, he would be the dentist's fan. - prognosis is usually good
Hysterical mind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - negative attitude - poor oral health and lack of effort for maintaining oral health - anxious and unstable emotionally - do not have realistic expectation - unreasonable complaints - poor prognosis
Indifferent mind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not motivated for the treatment. - disinterested in the treatment - does not obey any advice of the dentist - prognosis is doubtful

Winkler's Classification^{3,6}:

This classification has been described in Table II.

Table II: Types of patients and their clinical impressions in Winkler's classification

Type	Clinical Impressions
The Hardy Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physically and psychologically maintained - active in their professional life - active socially - adapt to changes and accept them
The Senile Aged Syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physically may be ill, disabled or aged - psychologically and emotionally weak - cannot cope with stress and vulnerable to ailments.
The Satisfied Old Denture Wearer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adapted well and happy with old dentures, even though they are faulty - not motivated for treatment - poor prognosis
Geriatric Patient who doesn't Want Denture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long-standing edentulism, without any treatment - no motivation for treatment and have a poor prognosis

Gamer's Classification^{9,11}: Gamer classification is based on two factors, i.e: patient's engagement level to dentist and treatment procedure in a continuum from totally engaged (++++) to disengaged (+).

This classification has been described in Table III.

Table III: Types of patients and their clinical impressions in Gamer's classification

Type	Clinical Impressions
Ideal	Reasonably engaged i.e. (+++) Reasonably trusts the dentist i.e. (+++) May skeptically distrust also . Mature May ask questions and need satisfying answers for the same from the dentist May not be over suspicious or over accepting of the dentist's opinions. Similar to Philosophical type of patient in House's classification

Type	Clinical Impressions
Submitter	Highly engaged (+ + + +) trusts the treatment and the dentist(++++), considers the dentist as ideal. Engages in the treatment completely
Reluctant	Engagement level is + + Trust for the treatment is ++ skeptical
Indifferent	Engagement level is + i.e. minimum level of engagement. Trust for treatment is +; indifferent to the dentist's instruction Similar to Indifferent type of patient in House's classification
Resistant	Engaged with treatment but with an adverse mindset. Trust is very minimal or not there Question or doubt if they receive help from anyone in any situation Instead of acknowledging or accepting, they challenge the dentist.

Another Classification¹¹:

This classification has been described in Table IV.

Table IV: Types of patients and their clinical impressions this classification

Type	Clinical Impressions
Cooperative	- may or may not recognize the need for dentures - Open to suggestions - After some effort by the dentist, these types of patients become cooperative.
Apprehensive	- Unreasonable - Acknowledge the need for dentures, but give an illogical problem that cannot be solved rationally.
a. Anxious	- Anxious and sometimes become neurotic - Focus on the uncertainties related to dentures.
b. Frightened	- Fear the denture therapy
c. Obsessive or exacting	- Aware about their wants - Exacting type - May dictate the clinician regarding the way to proceed.
d. Chronic complainers	- Dissatisfied with any kind of treatment - Find faults and problems in everything - Need appreciation, if they are willing and cooperating for the treatment.
e. Self-conscious	- Look-conscious - Need to be re-assured and should be acknowledged for their inputs in the final result.
Uncooperative	- Do not need dentures - Not motivated - Have a negative approach

Need of Understanding Patient Psychology: The patient's contribution to his or her treatment is vital for a positive treatment outcome. For the clinician to deliver good work and for the patient to adapt, there must exist a good relationship between the patient and dentist. Then only the patient will accept the treatment.¹⁰ There are many factors that play a role in satisfying the patient.

Among these factors, the most important ones are: type of treatment selected, psychology of patient, the personality of the patient, perception of the patient towards the dentist and treatment selected, the interaction between patient and dentist. Patient satisfaction level may be increased if there is a good dentist-patient relationship because the dentist understands the patient's needs and

delivers as per the patient's expectation whereas the patient builds an acceptable and realistic result.^{11,12}

Conclusion

The clinician should understand the mental attitude of the patient, preceding general and oral examination. Proper time should be devoted to a thorough examination. This builds the patient's faith in the doctor. The doctor's attitude towards patients is also equally important. The dentist should be concerned about the patient's comfort, health, and well-being so that there is trust developed from both-sides and the patient is motivated to follow the advice of the dentist. This shall lead to a good outcome of the denture therapy.

Conflict of Interests: None

Ethical Permission: Approved

Funding: Nil

References

1. Rachellea K, Jubhari EH. 2018. Patient's mental attitude. J Dentomaxillofacial Science Article in Press.
2. Emami E, de-Souza RF, Kabawat M, et al. The impact of edentulism on oral and general health. Int J Dent 2013; 2-4.
3. Choudhary S, Kumar A, Arora H. Correlation of patient's mental attitude with age, sex, and educational level: A survey. Eur J Dent 2016;10: 23-28.
4. Krochak M. The difficult denture patient. Int J Psychosom 1991;38:58-62.
5. Seifert I, Langer A, Michmann J. Evaluation of psychologic factors in geriatric denture patients. J Prosthet Dent 1962;12:516-23.
6. Winkler S. The geriatric complete denturepatient. Dent Clin N Am 1977;21:403-25.
7. O'Shea RM, Corah NL, Ayer WA. Dentists' perceptions of the 'good' adult patient: an exploratory study. J Am Dent Assoc 1983;106:813-6.
8. Payne SH. The person. In: Shorry JJ. Complete Dciittur ProMhodontic:. 3rd ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill;1974:10.
9. Gamer S, Tuch R, Garcia LT. MM Housemental classification revisited: intersection of particular patient types and particular dentist's needs. J Prosthet Dent 2003;89:297-302.
10. Bandodkar KA, Aras M. Psychological considerations for complete denture patients. J Indian Prosthodont Soc 2007;7: 71-73.
11. Gaikwad AV, Singh J KP, Hazari P, Deshpande S, Babar G, Jain JK Complete denture patients & mental attitude IJOCR 2015: Apr-Junun : 3(2): 28-31
12. Walia K, Belludi SA, Kulkarni P, et al. A comparative and qualitative analysis of patient's motivation, expectation, and satisfaction with dental implants. J Clin Diagn Res 2016;10: 23.