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## Research Article

### AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEY TO EVALUATE THE PREVALENCE OF DENTURE STOMATITIS IN COMPLETE DENTURE WEARERS PATIENTS IN SOUTH COASTAL REGION OF KARNATAKA, INDIA

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#### ABSTRACT

Denture stomatitis is a prevalent and long standing problem in complete denture wearers. Long standing wearing of denture leads to significant changes in the oral mucosa that adversely effect its integrity. Mucosal changes could result from traumatic occlusion, plaque accumulation, allergic reaction to the denture material. Thus the purpose of this study is to evaluate the prevalence of denture stomatitis in complete denture wearer patients in south coastal area of Karnataka.

##### Key Words:

Oral Hygiene, complete denture prosthesis, denture stomatitis.

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## INTRODUCTION

The ageing of the population leads to an increase in the demand for health care, including oral health care. Partial and complete tooth loss represents a common feature of old age therefore there is a need for oral health care provisions for edentulous old generations. Oral mucosal lesions associated with the wearing of removable prostheses are usually related to oral biofilms, dental materials used in the fabrication of the dentures, or denture injuries. Denture-related stomatitis, probably the most frequent oral mucosal lesion associated with the wearing of removable dentures, is indicated by an inflammatory state of the denture bearing mucosa characterised by chronic erythema and oedema of part or all the mucosa beneath maxillary dentures.<sup>1</sup>

## METHODOLOGY

### Patient selection

Thirty completely edentulous patients (12 male and 18 female) wearing complete denture prosthesis at least for the past one year were randomly selected from the outpatient section of the

department of Prosthodontics A.B Shetty institute of dental sciences, Mangaluru, india.

### Inclusion criteria

1. Age group 45-80 years, male or female patients.
2. Patients wearing complete denture prosthesis.
3. Patients wearing the prosthesis for more than a year.
4. Patients not on any antifungal medication.
5. Patients who are willing to participate in the study.

### Exclusion criteria

1. Age less than 45 and more than 80 years.
2. Patients not wearing complete denture prosthesis.
3. Patients wearing the prosthesis for less than a year.
4. Patients on antifungal agents.
5. Patients who are not ready to participate in the study.

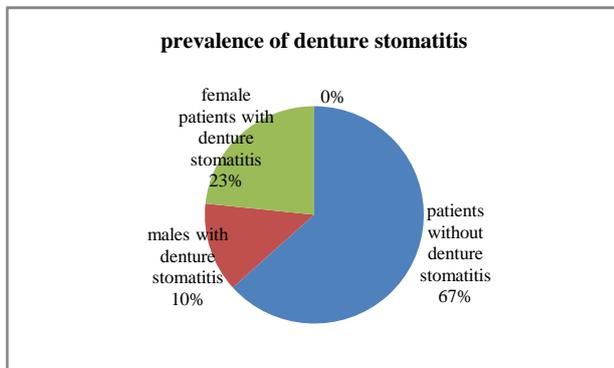
## RESULTS

1. Among the total 30 denture wearers (12 males, 18 females) examined, 11 patients were found to be positive for stomatitis.

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2. Among the 11 positive patients, 4 were males and 7 were females.
3. Among the total male patients examined, 4 patients were positive for stomatitis.
4. Among the total female patients examined, 7 patients were positive for stomatitis.



## DISCUSSION

Denture stomatitis has been found to be a common problem associated with denture wearing. The causative agents for this has been ill fitting or poorly fitting complete denture prosthesis causing trauma to the underlying mucosa or improper maintenance protocol by the wearer. The findings of this survey indicate that there was a gender preference in respect to the prevalence of stomatitis, with females having the disorders more frequently. With respect to the use of dental services, it has been shown that subjects who visit the dentist irregularly also had an increased chance for denture stomatitis. Although oral mucosal lesions are more frequent among edentate older persons, they are known to use dental services and seek dental care less frequently, suggesting that strategies should be directed at this particular group of people and their specific oral health problems.

## CONCLUSION

Denture stomatitis affects a large percentage of persons wearing complete dentures. Key factors that can dramatically increase the risk of denture stomatitis are poor denture fit, poor denture hygiene, and colonization of the denture surface and oral mucosa, primarily mucosa in contact with denture fitting surfaces. so it is important to reduce risk for development of denture stomatitis. Good quality prostheses coupled with clear instructions to denture wearers by dentists and prosthodontists on the importance of diligent maintenance and use of a daily cleaning regimen are required. Denture wearers must take it on themselves to be diligent and to practice appropriate denture hygiene. Additionally, denture wearers should remove their dentures at night. Routine follow-up visits to assess that the prostheses maintain proper fit and function, and that users are maintaining denture hygiene is of extreme importance in reducing risk for developing stomatitis. Finally, treatment of stomatitis appears to rely on stringent cleaning or replacement of dentures, together with appropriate antifungal therapy.

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