

**AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT COMPLETE
DENTURE PATIENTS AT THIKA LEVEL 5 HOSPITAL, KIAMBU COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

Few studies have documented the problems and challenges that affect complete denture patients who are aged between 65 years to 80 years and above. Past research documents and journals have extensively done research on the impact of complete denture on patients oral health and quality of life. The purpose of this study therefore was to investigate and determine problems that affect complete denture patients at Thika Level 5 hospital in Kiambu County. The study was guided by objectives and research questions to determine the gap. The objectives included, Determination of the number of complete denture patients seen at the hospital and for how long the patient has had dentures; Determination of kind of problems associated with wearing of complete denture; Determination of the number of denture patients who come back for review. An extensive literature review was done to study the trend documented in the past related study and research and further identified the gap as at target population. A cross section research study design was deployed to study the trend of patients with complete denture and associated problems. Data collected from the patients was analyzed and presented using the bar graphs, pie charts and frequency showing the trends and issue discussion raised in the study objectives. According to this study, complete denture wearers experienced difficulties with their dentures. Most frequent complaints among complete denture wearers in this study and the common cause of complaints was over extension of denture flanges. There was no correlation between age, gender and systemic conditions with complete denture complaints. However there were statistically significant relationship between types of dentures, construction faults and denture complaints. The research finally suggests more research regarding the factors that may improve dental service delivery in the government facilities especially on the dental restoration methods, need to analyze mechanisms that can be used to promote research in denture construction methods and on the impact of poor oral health on national development is also an area for further research.