

**RESEARCH PROJECT**

**ASSESSING AWARENESS OF DENTAL IMPLANTS AMONG PATIENTS ATTENDING  
UASIN GISHU DISTRICT HOSPITAL DENTAL CLINIC IN KENYA**

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## ABSTRACT

**Background of the study;** Many studies have been reported which assessed the awareness and expectations of patients and general public regarding dental implants, in the United States very little literature was found on assessment of dental implants. Due to the advancement in the field of dentistry and the demand of patients concerning the dental implants there is need to assess the level of awareness among patients locally.

**Objectives;** This study sought to assess the awareness of dental implants among patients attending Uasin-Gishu District Hospital, to gather the source of information of patients desire to have dental implants, to assess the level of acceptance of dental implants and to determine the barriers affecting dental implants among patients attending Uasin-Gishu District Hospital.

**Methodology;** this was a descriptive study targeting 120 respondents who attended Uasin-Gishu district hospital dental clinic. The population was divided into strata such as male and female patients from which a census of each stratum was done through random sampling of the willing patients which was applied appropriately to achieve the desired 91 sample size. Data was collected by use of open and closed ended questionnaire there after it was analyzed using descriptive statistics in order to determine the frequency and percentages.

**Results;** The responses to each question was calculated and presented in form of tables. On findings of willingness to choose dental implants n=65(71.5%) were willing to opt for while n=26(28.5%) were not, the source of information was from dentist n=36(39.6%) books, internet and magazines n= 31(34.1%) and those who had heard information from friends and relatives were n=24(26.4%) The n=75(88.2%) felt improvement of speech, aesthetics and function

following the placement of dental implant while the n=16(11.8%) had no comment, the n=60(70.6%) avoided dental implants because of lack of need, fear, anxiety, lack of finance, lack of inaccessibility to health care and lack of specialized dentist in terms of man power, the n=70(76.9%) of the respondents said that the dental implant therapy was not affordable while n=21(23.1%) said it was affordable.

**Conclusion;** The study concludes that on the level of acceptance to choose dental implant treatment, patients would accept dental implants for replacing missing teeth, patients felt that there was an improvement following placement of dental implants and that many patients said that the implant treatment was not affordable.

**Recommendations;** The study recommends that there is need to enlighten patients on the importance of dental implant treatment, dental implant therapy should be made affordable so that patients can opt for it, further studies should be done in other same level hospitals to access the awareness of dental implants among dental patients.