

**AN ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS' AWARENESS ON CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF  
DENTAL MALOCCLUSION AT THE MOI UNIVERSITY DENTAL CLINIC,  
KENYA**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to assess patient's awareness on causes and effects of dental malocclusion at the moi university dental clinic. The specific objectives of the study was to asses the level of awareness of dental malocclusion, level of awareness on causes and effects of dental malocclusion and to propose strategies to mitigate the problems arising from lack of awareness on dental malocclusion, causes and its effects among patients attending Moi university dental clinic. The study used descriptive survey research design. The study targeted 75 participants from Moi university dental clinic who were patients attending the dental clinic. Sampling technique was systematic sampling of the willing patients was applied appropriately to achieve the desired 63 sample size. Data was collected by use of questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics to determine their frequency, Percentages of the responses to each question was calculated and presented in form of tables and charts. With regard to age, it was found that 33% of the respondents were in the age group 25-31 years while the lowest 6% were in the age group 45-46 years and this is important because majority of the respondents were youth. This shows that youths are more concerned with aesthetics and self esteem than the other age cohorts.

This study demonstrated that there is an association between some independent variables and the level of awareness on causes and effects of dental malocclusion. Gender was found to be a key determinant. With 65% of the respondents being females as opposed to only 35% of male respondents. This may be explained by the fact that most females take their dental formular more seriously than their male counterparts.

Most of the respondents (28%) reported knowledge of dental malocclusion as being an inherited condition from parents and in the family tree.

There is need of community dental health education on the dental malocclusion. Government should also consider reducing the cost of dental treatment and make it affordable to all. More research should be done on dental malocclusion especially on the mode of early intervation. These would go along way in improving dental health care not only in Moi university but also in Kenya, Africa and Globally.