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Association Of Age, Gender and Teeth Distribution in Patients Undergoing Class I Metal Inlay Restoration

Research Article

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Abstract

Inlay is an indirect restorative technique which is a conservative approach to prevent full coverage restorations. Inlays can be fabricated by using metal, composite or ceramics. The aim of the study was to find the association between age, gender and tooth number in patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration. Samples were collected from June 2019 - March 2020. It included all the people who had undergone class I metal inlay restoration. A total of 37 class I metal inlay procedures were done. The collected data was tabulated using microsoft excel and analysed using SPSS. Incomplete data was excluded from the study. Statistical analysis was done using a chi-square test. In our study, we observed that the age group below 30 years, reported the most for class I metal inlay restoration between gender and class I metal inlay restorations revealed that the highest number of class I metal inlay restorations were done in males in tooth number 37, and the least were done in females in tooth number 38(p > 0.05), however it was not statistically significant. Association between age and class I metal inlay restorations revealed that patients in the age group above 30 years underwent higher number of class I metal inlays in tooth number 37 and the least being patients in the age group above 30 years underwent higher number of class I metal inlays in tooth number 37 and the least being patients in the age group above 30 years involving tooth number 36 (p > 0.05), however it was not statistically significant.

Keywords: Inlay; Ceramics; Composite; Metal.

Introduction

Dental caries in permanent teeth is highly prevalent, affecting about 35% of the world population especially in posterior teeth [1]. Dental caries is the most common cause for the loss of tooth structure in a clinical situation [2]. Although caries is the predominant reason for loss of tooth structure, several other non-carious lesions, such as erosion, abfraction, attrition and fracture may also lead to breakdown of the hard tissues of the teeth, necessitating their restoration [3, 4].

There are several different options to perform posterior restorations, including direct materials (amalgam, composite) and indirect materials (composite, ceramic, metal). The selection, by the clinician, for a particular material and technique to restore posterior teeth may be influenced by the dentist's personal preferences and skills, patient requests and financial resources, and country policies, among others [5-8].

Over the past few decades there have been many changes in the practice of dentistry. In the field of operative dentistry, developments in the dental material science, together with an increasing awareness of the need to preserve tooth tissue, have radically altered the approach to treatment. Many techniques that were considered standard practice 20 years ago are now rarely used. One such example is the intracoronal, cast metal inlay restoration. With the emergence of improved, alternative materials in the form of composite resins and glass-ionomer cements, use of the simple cast restoration appears to have declined in recent years [9].

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All metal extra-coronal restorations include crowns, onlays. Metal inlays initially introduced in the USA became widely used in Japan with the lost-wax technique [10]. Gold alloys were considered the preferred material for metal inlays because their softness permitted good marginal sealing and stability. But the high price of gold alloys was a problem. To achieve both superior properties and cost effectiveness, silver-based alloys were developed as alternatives to gold ones [11].

Cast metal offers excellent service and has a long clinical track record. High noble alloys are desirable for patients concerned with allergy or sensitivity to other restorative materials. These restorations can be designed to strengthen the tooth and to conserve more tooth structure than a full crown. Lower esthetic value is the probable disadvantage [12].

Conventional intracoronal cast restorations could be improved by bonding etched metal to enamel. Conventional intracoronal restorations rely on frictional retention of the casting by opposing walls of the cavity preparation. This retention is increased by the adaptation of luting material to surface irregularities whereas, etched-metal restorations rely on microscopic interlocking of the resin in the enamel and metal surfaces [13].

Previously our team had conducted numerous *in-vitro* studies, [14, 15] clinical studies [16-20], reviews [21-25], and surveys [26, 27] in the last five years. Now, we are focussing on retrospective studies. The aim of the study was to find the association between age, gender and tooth number in patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration.

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted at Saveetha Dental College between June 2019 to March 2020. 86000 patient records were analyzed. A total of 37 patients who had undergone class 1 metal inlay procedures were reviewed and analyzed. The data was cross verified by another examiner to avoid errors. Cross verification of data was done using photographs and RVGs. Sampling bias was minimised by verifying the photographs and radiographs by an external reviewer. After verification of dental hospital management system records of all patients, data such as name, age, gender and tooth number of patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration were tabulated in Microsoft Excel. Incomplete data and radiographs which were not of adequate diagnostic accuracy were excluded from the study. The statistical analysis was done using SPSS software (SPSS version 21.0, SPSS, Chicago II, USA). The data was analyzed using a chi-square test. The p value less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.Ethical clearance was obtained. Ethical approval number SDC/SIHEC/2020/DI-ASDATA/0619-0320.

Results and Discussion

From our study it was observed that among the patients who had class I metal inlay 64.9% of the patients belonged to the age group below 30 years (Table 1), 62.2% of the patients were males (Table 2) and 48.6% of class I metal inlay restoration was done in 37 (Table 3). Association between gender and class I metal inlay restorations revealed that the highest number of class I metal inlay restorations were done in males in tooth number 37, and the least were done in females in tooth number 38 (p value > 0.05) (Figure 1). Association between age and class I metal inlay restorations revealed that patients in the age group above 30 years underwent higher number of class I metal inlays in tooth number 37 and the least being patients in the age group above 30 yrs involving tooth number 36 (p >0.05) (Figure 2).

In a systematic review by Angeletaki et al [28], on indirect restorations no statistical significance in the risk failure between direct versus indirect inlays, after 5 years of function, although results turned slightly in favor of indirect (p = 0.52). In a study done by Olsson et al, [29] women were somewhat more likely to select an indirect restoration compared to men. This is in conflict with our study and a previously reported gender-equal distribution in the utilization of dental care [30].

The higher mean age for individuals choosing an indirect coronal

Table 1. Age distribution of	patients undergoing class l	[metal inlay restorations.
	P	

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Below 30 Years	24	64.9
	Above 30 Years	13	35.1
	Total	37	100

shows the age distribution of patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration. 64.9% of the patients belonged to the age group below 30 years, 35.1% belonged to the age group of above 30 years

Table 2. Gender distribution of patients undergoing class I metal inlay restorations.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Female	14	37.8
	Male	23	62.2
	Total	37	100

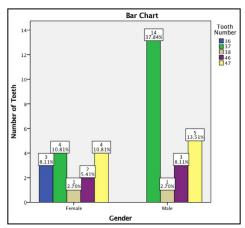
shows the gender distribution of patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration. 62.2% of the patients were males and 37.8% of the patients were females.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	36	3	8.1
	37	18	48.6
	38	2	5.4
	46	5	13.5
	47	9	24.3
	Total	37	100

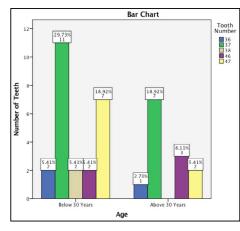
Table 3. Teeth distribution of patients undergoing class I metal inlay restorations.

shows the teeth distribution of patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration. 8.1% of the inlay restorations were done in 36, 48.6% done in 37, 5.4% done in 38,13.5% done in 46,24.3% done in 47.

Graph 1. Bar graph showing the association between gender and tooth number undergoing class I metal inlay restoration. X axis represents gender and Y axis represents number of teeth. Highest number of class I metal inlay restorations were done in males in tooth number 37 (green bar), and the least were done in females in tooth number 38 (beige bar)(p value > 0.05). Chi-square test was done and the association was found to be statistically insignificant. Pearson's Chi-square value = 7.097, df = 4, p value 0.131 (>0.05) hence statistically not significant.



Graph 2. Bar graph showing the association between age and tooth number. X axis represents the age and Y axis represents the number of teeth.Patients in the age group above 30 years underwent higher number of class I metal inlays in tooth number 37(green bar) and the least being patients in the age group above 30 yrs involving tooth number 36(blue bar). Chi-square test was done and the association was found to be statistically insignificant. Pearson's Chi-square value = 3.214, df = 4, p value 0.523 (>0.05) hence statistically not significant.



restoration may be related to differences in dental status between age groups. On group level, older individuals have a higher number of missing teeth as well as filled teeth with more missing or filled surfaces [31]. In general, older individuals may thus be more likely to need a crown compared to younger individuals with less burden of caries and with more remaining tooth substance which was contrary to our study in which age group below 30 years reported the maximum for inlay restoration.

Nuckles et al., [32] stated that the cast metal inlay is no longer a reasonable consideration in the conservative treatment of teeth. However, a recent clinical study [33] comparing cast metal inlays with amalgams found inlays to be of higher quality, particularly with respect to marginal integrity. In a study conducted by Sanduet, [34] it was demonstrated stresses are higher in the cast metal restorations and therefore the strength of the teeth is not affect-

ed. A taper between 0 and 10 degrees of the preparation is not decisive for the stress values.

Regarding postoperative sensitivity, Cetin et al, [35] reported sensitivity to 4% of the restorations (three indirect, one direct). However, only one indirect inlay required canal treatment and replacement after two years. Similarly, Pallesen and Qvist [36] found 7% and 10% of post-operative sensitivity for direct and indirect inlays respectively. They also reported regarding color match and marginal discoloration where inlays scored better than fillings. Color match and discoloration of the margin were 44%–50% for indirect inlays and 33%–26% for fillings.

Hayashi et al [37] reported on the current trends in the teaching of posterior restorations to undergraduate dental students in Japan by comparing the results of surveys conducted over a 30-year period. In the 2017 survey, 93% (27/29) of the schools reported teaching composite as the preferred choice of materials for the placement of direct restorations in posterior teeth, whereas 65% (15/29) schools did so in the survey of 2007. However, two schools reported teaching metal inlays as the preferred approach even in 2017.

The limitations of our study were that it was an institutional based study, the duration of cases taken into account was only 1 year and very small sample size. Future scope includes taking a larger population into account and populations from different geographical locations.

Conclusion

Within the limitations of the study, age group below 30 years (64.9%), males (62.2%) and tooth number 37(48.6%) had higher incidence of patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration. Highest number of class I metal inlay restorations were done in males in tooth number 37. Patients in the age group above 30 years underwent higher number of class I metal inlays in tooth number 37. However there was no significant association between age, gender and teeth distribution in patients undergoing class I metal inlay restoration.

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