

# Evaluation of Awareness among General Dentists for Referral of Patients Needing Orthodontic Treatment

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## ABSTRACT

**Aim:** To evaluate the awareness among general dentists for referral of patients needing orthodontic treatment.

**Study design:** Descriptive study

**Place and duration of study:** Institute of Dentistry, CMH Lahore and Nishtar Institute of Dentistry Multan from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**Methods:** A total of 100 members were included. The data was collected through a questionnaire which included all the data related to patients and dentist for referral of patients needing orthodontics treatment. The systematically designed questionnaire included all the demographic values and questions regarding orthodontic counselling.

**Results:** 31% of the members had understanding of 2 years or less, 40% had understanding of 2-6 years and 29% had more prominent than 6 years of experience. The scores of information were looked at between general dental expert (8.89) and non-orthodontic fortes (10.25), which demonstrated that the scores were more for the non-orthodontic claim to fame and the thing that matters was factually profoundly critical.

**Conclusion:** The current information and approach of general dental specialists just as non-orthodontic pros towards orthodontic treatment ought to be improved.

**Keywords:** Evaluation, Awareness, General dentist, Treatment

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## INTRODUCTION

The specialty of orthodontics identifies with facial and occlusal advancement and includes the supervision, block attempt, and remedy of occlusal and dentofacial irregularities known as malocclusion. Malocclusion is a term which suggests malalignment of teeth and misguided association between the upper and lower bends. Patients with malocclusion have no specific signs and symptoms, anyway may whimper about feel, issue with talk, and rumination<sup>1</sup>.

The commonness of malocclusion has been found to fluctuate in various nations, running from 20 to 43% in India, from 20 to 35% in the United States, 62.4% in Saudi Arabia, and 88.1% in Colombia. In Nigeria, a pervasiveness of 87.7% was accounted for among youngsters in the north, 76% in Ibadan, and 84.1% in Benin, obviously demonstrating that malocclusion is predominant among Nigerian kids. The early administration of malocclusion is significant as a result of its effect on confidence and personal satisfaction<sup>2</sup>.

Overall population ought to know about reason, results and the advantages of orthodontic treatment. This can be practiced by a multidisciplinary approach in which general dental experts and other non-orthodontic authorities can assume the job of orthodontic health teachers<sup>3</sup>. Potential contrasts in instructive preparing, view of orthodontic treatment need may vary by dental specialist gathering or claim to fame association<sup>4</sup>.

Some of the time, patient may give grumble that they can't associate with the basic malocclusion. In such case, it is fundamental for a dental specialist to recognize and analyze the orthodontic reason and guidance for a referral<sup>5</sup>.

Safeguarding or adjustment of the normal dentition to an ideal condition of health, capacity, solace, and style remains the essential objective of dentistry. In any case, referral of patients by general dental specialists to orthodontic authorities might be mind boggling as it includes the collaboration of the two dental experts and the patient<sup>6</sup>. Since there is a stamped variety in referral rates between the dental specialists and numerous patients might be alluded improperly, an away from of what is thought about current orthodontic treatment potential outcomes, impediments and intrinsic dangers is essential<sup>7</sup>. So that, the main objective of the study is to evaluate the awareness among General dentists for referral of patients needing orthodontic treatment.

## PATIENTS AND METHODS

This descriptive study was conducted at Institute of Dentistry, CMH Lahore and Nishtar Institute of Dentistry Multan from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and comprised 100 cases. This study was carried among dentists and non-orthodontic specialist from different hospitals of Pakistan. The data was collected through a questionnaire which included all the data related to patients and dentist for referral of patients needing orthodontics treatment. The systematically designed questionnaire included all the demographic values and questions regarding orthodontic counselling. Dental specialists and non-orthodontic pros who are effectively engaged with giving oral health care in emergency clinics and private centers were remembered for the investigation. Dental specialists who are not by and by rehearsing dentistry were prohibited from the investigation. The data was analysed through SPSS-20.

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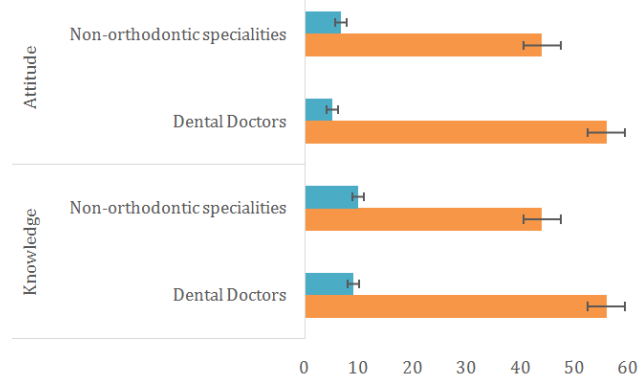
## RESULTS

31% of the members had understanding of 2 years or less, 40% had understanding of 2-6 years and 29% had more prominent than 6 years of experience. The scores of information were looked at between general dental expert (8.89) and non-orthodontic fortes (10.25), which demonstrated that the scores were more for the non-orthodontic claim to fame and the thing that matters was factually profoundly critical (Table 1). The scores of males and female participants of the study were compared, which showed that the scores were more for the male participants as compared to females, but the difference was not significant statistically (Fig. 1).

Table 1: Comparison of the scores of the knowledge and attitude using Student's *t*-test

Group	n	Mean±SD	t-value	P value
<b>Knowledge</b>				
Dental doctors	56	8.89±1.43	3.912	P<0.001
Non-orthodontic specialities	44	9.90±1.21		
<b>Attitude</b>				
Dental doctors	56	5.07±1.06	5.106	P<0.001
Non-orthodontic specialities	44	6.78±1.43		

Fig. 1: Compare of attitude and knowledge



## DISCUSSION

This study showed that a large portion of the general dental specialists and the nonorthodontic masters knew about the essential idea of the orthodontic treatment. In any case, around 40% of the members don't know that first orthodontic assessment ought to be done around 7-8 years and around 55% imagine that orthodontic treatment can't be performed following 40 years.<sup>7</sup> This absence of information is extremely indispensable for the patient advising and referral at the right age for the ideal result of the orthodontic treatment. This shows the requirement for expanded in clinically situated instruction of training and ideas of orthodontic treatment<sup>8</sup>.

Rather than the present investigation, Kapoor et al<sup>9</sup> have demonstrated factually critical information and mentality distinction between general dental specialists and nonorthodontic masters. In another investigation done in Saudi Arabia, when the scores of information were looked

at between general dental professional and non-orthodontic claims to fame, a factually noteworthy distinction was noted<sup>10</sup>.

Correlation of the all out score of information and mentality were likewise thought about among male and female members.<sup>11</sup> This appeared, score was more if there should arise an occurrence of male members as looked at female members, however the thing that matters was not noteworthy measurably. This indicated male experts had more positive information and demeanor than female dental specialists, toward standards and practice of orthodontic treatment<sup>12</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the current information and approach of general dental specialists just as non-orthodontic pros towards orthodontic treatment ought to be improved. Prospectus of under graduation orthodontics ought to remember more accentuation for helpful ideas to satisfy this information hole.

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