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RESEARCH ARTICLE

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND TREATMENT PROTOCOLS IN MICRO ENDODONTIC SURGERIES AMONG GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN CHENNAI

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To assess the knowledge, attitude and treatment protocols in micro endodontic surgeries among dental practitioners in Chennai.

Objective: To evaluate the knowledge, attitude and treatment protocols in micro endodontic surgeries among general practitioners.

Background: Endodontic surgery is a procedure of last resort when non-surgical treatments have failed to produce the desired results. With advent of innovative and newer technologies, newer advancements are implemented. Microendodontic surgery is one such advancement that has made surgical procedure easier in endodontics, more accurate, reliable and increased the success rate of the treatment. In microendodontics, microscope and other micro instruments are used. The advantages include the easier detection of root apices and smaller osteotomies.

Reason: To assess the knowledge and practice of micro endodontic surgeries among dentists in Chennai.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the advancements which has made a huge mark in the field of dentistry is the use of operative microscopes for treatment procedures (Pecora, 1993). The field of microscopy has also led to the development of new instruments and techniques apart from application. The use of microscopes for treatment procedures in endodontics has paved way for greater success in treatments than the conventional procedures. Micro endo surgery brings about the concept of periradicular surgery thus replacing the apical surgery which was done conventionally (Izawa, 1994). Micro endo surgery varies from the conventional methods to a very large extent. One of the major advantages is assessing the technique of the surgery. Microsurgery is a surgical procedure carried on extremely small and complicated structures with an operating microscope. Although this does not increase the field of access, it increases the field of vision. This increases the rate of accuracy of the surgical procedure (Kim, 2006).

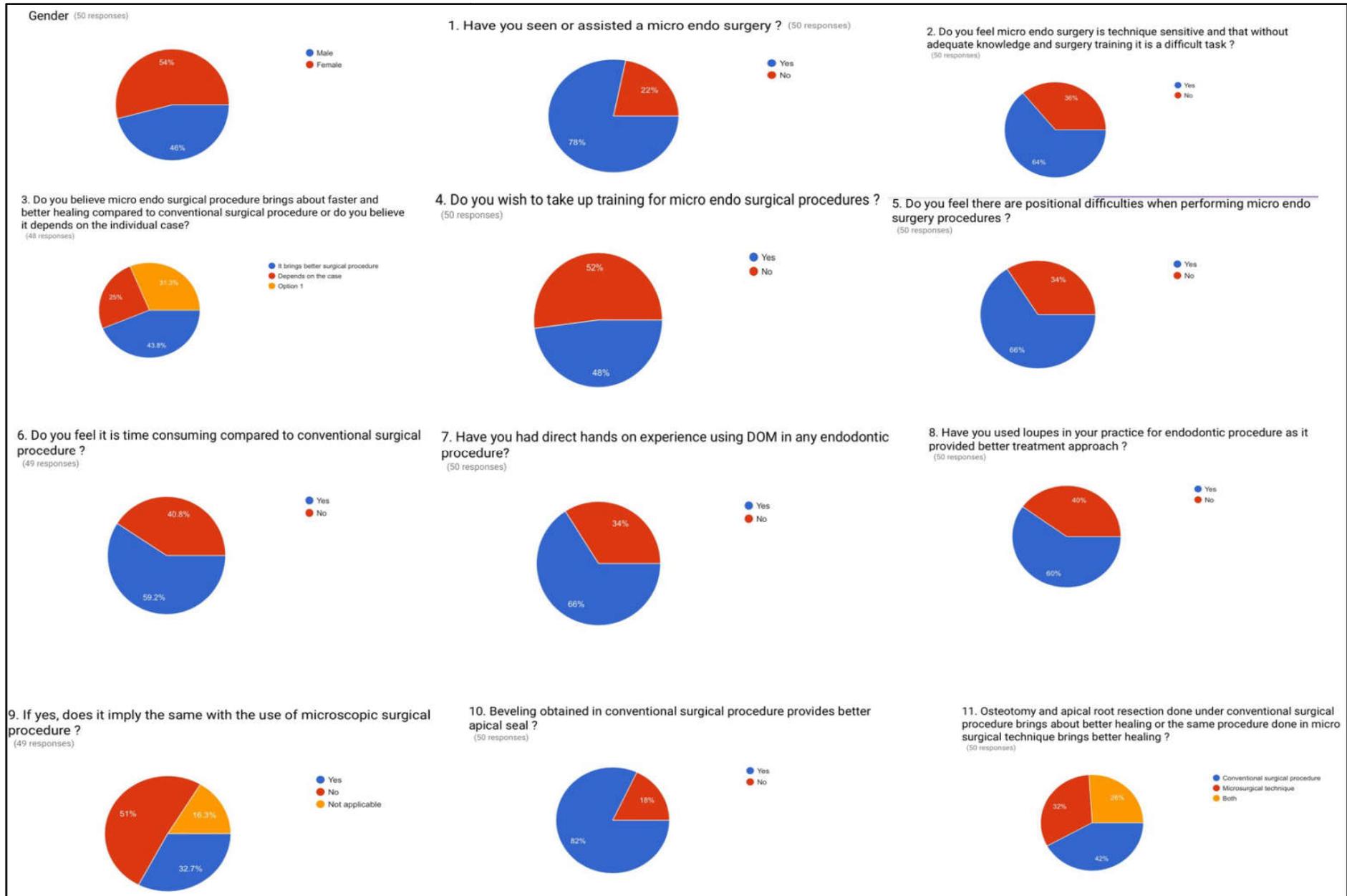
Also, it has led to lesser pain in the surgeries done with respect to approaching the tissues. The various advantages of this procedure includes easy identification of the apical third, smaller osteotomies, increased diagnosis, easier and safer management and less invasive (Pecora, 1998). When a surgical procedure is done, the primary concern is that healing process if favourable in the conditions and there is quick healing. Micro endo surgery provides the necessary conditions (Pecora, 2002). Micro surgical procedures have increased the treatment success rates for many treatment failures earlier (Pecora, 2006).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A self administered closed ended questionnaire was given to the general practitioners to evaluate the knowledge, attitude and treatment protocols of micro endo surgery. The questionnaire consisted of simple questions which required a yes or no answer.

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RESULTS

Age:

Gender:

Years of experience:

Qualification:

1. Have you seen or assisted a micro endo surgery? Yes/No
 2. Do you feel micro surgery is technique sensitive and that without adequate knowledge and surgery training it is a difficult task? Yes /No
 3. Do you believe micro endo surgical procedure brings about faster and better healing compared to conventional surgical procedure or do you believe it depends on the individual case?
 4. Do you wish to take up training for micro endo surgical procedures? Yes/No
 5. Do you feel there are positional difficulties when performing micro endo surgery procedures? Yes/No
 6. Do you feel it is time consuming compared to conventional surgical procedure? Yes/No
 7. Have you had direct hands on experience using DOM in any endodontic procedure? Yes/No
 8. Have you used loupes in your practice for endodontic procedure as it provided better treatment approach? Yes /No
- If yes, Does it imply the same with the use of microscopic surgical procedure?
9. Beveling obtained in conventional surgical procedure provides better apical seal? Yes/No
 10. Osteotomy and apical root resection done under conventional surgical procedure brings about better healing or the same procedure done in micro surgical technique brings better healing ?

DISCUSSION

From the survey conducted, a conclusion can be drawn that the awareness among dentists about micro endo surgery has been quite high which is about 78% and more than half the percentage of dentists believe that it is technique sensitive and adequate knowledge is necessary to carry out the procedure.

About 63.7% of the dentists believe that micro endo surgery brings about better healing and only 34.3% believed that it depends on the individual case. It is alarming to see that only 48% of the dentists were interested in the training for this surgery. More than half the percentage of dentists believe that there are positional difficulties in performing this surgery and felt it was a time consuming procedure. About more than 60% have had an hands on experience and have used loupes while performing a micro endo surgery. A large population of about 82% believe that the bevelling obtained provides a better apical seal.

Conclusion

Thus from this study, it can be concluded that fairly a large number of dentists are aware of microendodontic surgery but adequate measures are required to improve their and knowledge and practices for better treatment results.

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