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Dental Photography as a Method of Documentation in Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

Aim: To determine the application of dental photography throughout Saudi Arabia in the daily clinical practice by the dental healthcare professionals, to evaluate its application in the academic clinic and to evaluate the risk of infection control.

Materials and Methods: The survey was conducted in hard and soft copies with self-administered 20 closed question questionnaires, an optimal sample size was approximated at 383 and 596 responses were collected. The data were analyzed through IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Statistics Windows version 22

Findings: From the online survey, 133 responses were included for analysis and from the hardcopy distribution; a respectable 463 questionnaires were included from an original 600. The mean age of respondents was 24.72 years (range 20-56) and more dental students responded than dentists (84.9% versus 15.1%).

Conclusion: Majority of the respondents were dental students having multitude of assignments, time is therefore a critical factor which played a major role in their hesitation to document their cases photographically. Last but not least, lacking an assigned personal dental assistant encourages dental students to use their mobile cameras and take verbal consent over written consent when dealing with their patients.

Keywords: dental photography, dental students, mobiles, cameras, dslr, survey.

Introduction

Dental photography has become an indispensable part of modern dentistry, all the modern equipment, advanced technologies has refined and made it easier for the modern dentists to apply it in their day to day life.

Nowadays the mobile phone has high quality upgraded cameras to the point that it is used as one of the major photographic tools in dentistry. However, thus far not reaching the quality nor

standard achieved by cameras marketed for dentistry such as Nikon and Canon.

Most common photographic tools are used in Dentistry:

- 1. Mobile phones
- 2. Cameras (DSLR, compact cameras)

Cairns in his study of 2016^[1] stated that the photographic tool can be categorized into 3 parts upon their quality:

Good—Smartphone accessories, which can enhance a smartphone's photography capabilities for dental images

Better—Point-and-shoot digital camera with macro lens and diffuser

Best—Digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) camera with macro lens and multiple flash option

Foong et al. in 2015^[2] showed in his study that medical students' phones are contaminated with 5% of harmful bacterial like Staphylococcus aureus.

This study was conducted to determine the application of dental photography throughout Saudi Arabia in the daily dental practice, to evaluate its application in the academic clinic and to evaluate the risk of infection control.

Material and Methods

The study received ethical approval from the research centre of Riyadh Elm University (RC/IRB/2016/453). An online (Surveymonkey®)

and hardcopy of self-administered 20 closed ended questionnaires was made.

An optimal sample size of 383 was recommended as the minimal amount for power of the sample. However, a surprising total of 596 respondents responded to the survey. The surveys were distributed to private and government institutions. The data collection took 5 weeks to complete and the data was entered into IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Statistics Windows version 22 for statistical analysis, Chi square Test was applied, P value was set at <0.05. To reiterate, there were 2 Groups; Dental Students and General Dentists.

Results

From the online survey, 133 responses were included into the analysis and from the hardcopies 463 responses were included from an original 600.

Table I: Frequency distribution of respondets demographic profile

		FREQUENCY	PERCENT
GENDER	Female	487	81.7
	Male	108	18.1
	18-24	415	69.6
AGE	25-34	138	23.2
AGE	35-44	19	3.2
	45-54	7	1.2
	55 and above	17	2.9
TYPE OF PRACTICE	Government	113	19.0
	Private	474	79.5
CURRENT POSITION	Dental Student	499	84.9
	Dentist	89	15.1

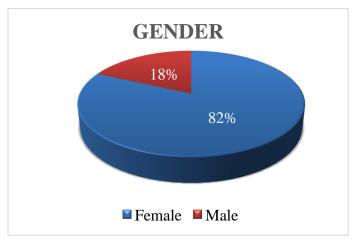


Figure 1: Gender Distribution

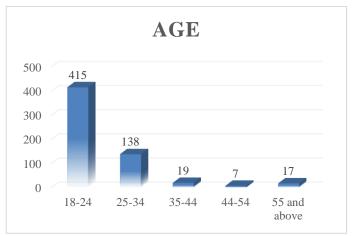


Figure 2: Age Distribution

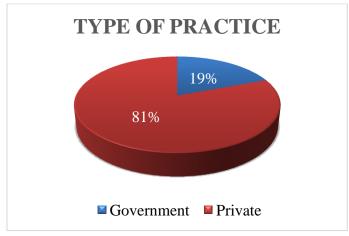


Figure 3: Type of Practice Distribution

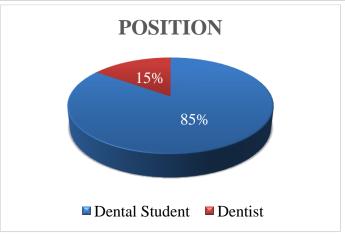
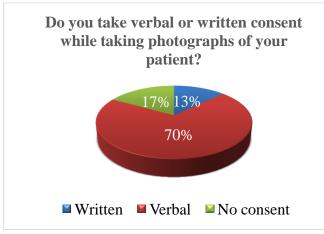


Figure 4: Position Distribution

Table II: Frequency distribution of asked questions in the survey

	<u> </u>	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Do you feel that you have enough training to take dental	YES	188	31.5
photographs?	NO	405	68.0
Do you take dental photographs for your every patient?	YES	144	24.2
	NO	448	75.2
Do you take verbal or written consent while taking	Written	76	12.8
photographs of your patient?	Verbal	416	69.8
	No consent	100	16.8
While taking dental photographs, what do you prefer?	Mobile phones	304	51.0
	Camera	267	44.8
Which of the following are the most common reasons that	Time	375	48.3
prevent you from taking patient photographs?	Patient Consent	106	13.6
	Bulkiness of camera	57	7.3
	Lack of Dental auxiliary (cheek retractors,	159	20.5
	mirrors etc.)		
	Not applicable (easy to take photographs)	80	10.3
If you use mobile phones for taking dental photographs,	iPhone	452	75.8
which brand are you currently using?	Samsung	40	6.7
	Huawei	8	1.3
_	LG	6	1.0
_	Nokia	7	1.2
<u> </u>	Sony	6	1.0
<u> </u>	I don't use mobile phones	62	10.4
_	Other	6	1.5
If you prefer camera in taking dental photographs, which	Canon	289	48.5
model are you currently using?	Nikon	101	16.9
model are you cantenny assign	Sony	19	3.2
	Fujifilm	5	0.8
	I don't use camera	155	26.0
	Other	7	1.2
Do you switch from camera to mobile phone or vice versa,	YES	330	55.4
in taking photographs?	NO	266	44.6
Do you think quality matters in dental photographs?	YES	547	91.8
Do you tillik quality matters in dental photographs:	NO NO	43	7.2
Do you work with an assistant while taking dental	Sometimes	309	51.8
photographs?	Always	232	38.9
photographs.	Never	53	8.9
Do you think the presence of an assistant will affect the	YES	538	90.3
quality of your photographs?	NO	55	9.2
Do you think mobile phones or cameras pose an issue as	Camera	58	9.7
cross contamination in the clinic?	Mobile phone	83	13.9
cross contamination in the chine:	Both	379	63.6
-	None	72	12.1
Do you follow any infection control protocol for cleaning	YES	466	78.2
your camera/ mobile phones in the clinic?	NO	124	20.8
Do you feel that infection control measures is better if you	YES	542	90.9
have a dental assistant available?	NO YES		90.9 8.9
Are you aware that proper photographic documentation		53	
might play a big role in forensic dentistry?	YES NO	511 81	85.7
		-	13.6
Do you think that dental photography should be introduced	YES	444	74.5
as an undergraduate course?	NO	146	24.5



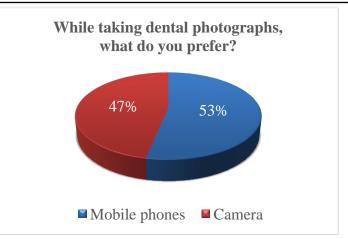


Figure 5: Preference of the type for taking consent Figure 6: Response in choosing the photographic device

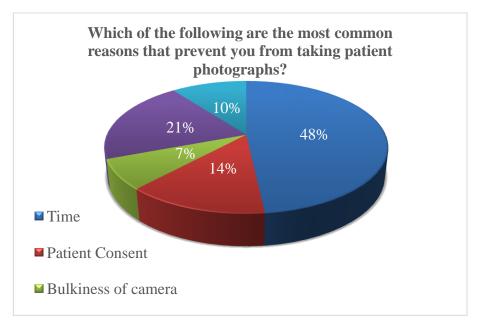
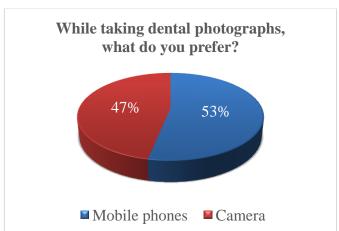


Figure 7: Response to the question of obstacle in dental photography



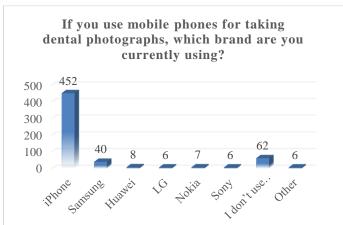
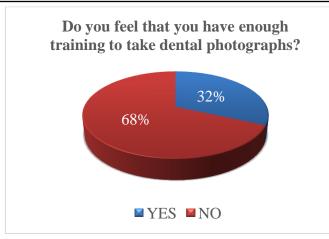


Figure 8: Response in choosing the photographic device

Figure 9: Preference in the model of mobile phones for dental photography



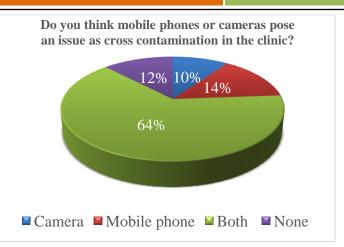


Figure 10: Response to the question of enough training

Figure 11: Response to the question of device contamination in the clinic

Table III: Association between the gender and the responses- n/ (%)

	Do you fe	eel that you hav	e enough train	ning to take den	tal photographs?						
		•	Y	ES	NO		P Value				
Female			142	(29.3)			342 (70.7)		007		
Male				(42.6)			62 (57.4)				
	Do you ta	ake dental photo			t?	•					
	YES NO								value		
Female								026			
Male				(32.7)			72 (67.3)				
	Do you ta		ritten consent	while taking ph	otographs of your patient	?					
		Written			Verbal		No conser		P Value		
Female		50 (10.4)			352 (72.9)		81 (16.8)		0.000		
Male	******* . 1	26 (24.1)		. 1	63 (58.3)		19 (17.6)				
	While tak	king dental phot				T			-		
Б 1				phones			Camera		P value		
Female				(53.3)			218 (46.7)		.988		
Male	TC	1.1 1		(53.4)	11111	.1 : 6	48 (46.6)				
					ns, which band are you cur			0.1			
	iPhone	Samsun	Huaw	LG	Nokia	Sony	I don't use	Other	P		
Female	388	g 26 (5.4)	ei 5 (1.0)	3 (0.6)	5 (1.0)	5	mobile phone 45 (9.4)	4 (0.8)	Value .001		
remaie	(80.7)	20 (3.4)	3 (1.0)	3 (0.0)	3 (1.0)	(1.0)	43 (9.4)	4 (0.8)	.001		
Male	63	14	3 (2.9)	3 (2.9)	2 (2.9)	1	17 (16.2)	2 (1.9)			
Maic	(60.0)	(13.3)	3 (2.9)	3 (2.9)	2 (2.9)	(1.9)	17 (10.2)	2 (1.9)			
			aking dental n	hotographs wh	ich model are you current				1		
	Canon	Nikon	Sony	Fujifilm	I don't use camera	ly using.	Other	D.	Value		
Female	241	76	15	3 (0.6)	127 (27.1)		7 (1.5)		239		
1 0111410	(51.4)	(16.2)	(3.2)	2 (0.0)	127 (2711)		, (1.0)				
Male	47	25	4 (3.8)	2 (1.9)	28 (26.4)		0				
	(44.3)	(23.6)	` ′	` /	` ,						
	Do you s	witch from cam	era to mobile	phone or vice v	ersa, in taking photograph	n?	•				
			Y	ES			NO	Ρ.	Value		
Female			285	(58.5)			202 (41.5)		001		
Male			,	(40.7)			64 (59.3)				
	Do you th	nink quality ma	tters in dental	photographs?							
		YES				NO		P	value		
Female				(93.4)		32 (6.6) 0.190			.190		
Male				(89.7)			11 (10.3)				
	Do you w	ork with an ass	sistant while ta	aking dental pho							
		Sometimes			Always		Never	P Value			
Female		255 (52.6)			186 (38.4)		44 (9.1)		.812		
Male		54 (50.0)			45 (41.7)		9 (8.3)				
	Do you th	nink the present			ne quality of your photogra	aph?	-				
				ES			NO	P Value			
Female				(91.6)			41 (8.4)		125		
Male	<u> </u>	92 (86.8) Do you think mobile phones or cameras pose an issue as cross contamination in					14 (13.2)				
			ones or camera			the clinic?	- n d				
т.		amera			phone		Both	None	P Value		
Female	48	3 (9.9)		64 (13.2)]	319 (65.8)	54	0.155		
- N 1) (0, 4)		16.0	17.0)	 	50 (55.7)	(11.1)	4		
Male	10) (9.4)		19 (17.9)	l .	59 (55.7)	18	L		

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			(17.0)								
	Do you follow any infection control protocol for cleaning your	Do you follow any infection control protocol for cleaning your camera/ mobile phones in the clinic?									
	YES	NO	P Value								
Female	390 (81.1)	91 (18.9)	0.007								
Male	75 (69.4)	33 (30.6)									
	Do you feel that infection control measures is better if you have	e a dental assistant available?									
	YES	NO	P Value								
Female	438 (90.1)	48 (9.9)	.084								
Male	103 (95.4)	5 (4.6)									
	Are you aware that proper photographic documentation might p	play a big role in forensic dentistry?									
	YES	NO	P Value								
Female	422 (87.2)	62 (12.8)	.178								
Male	88 (82.2)	19 (17.8)									
	Do you think that dental photography should be introduced as a	n undergraduate course?									
	YES	NO	P Value								
Female	359 (74.5)	123 (25.5)	.383								
Male	84 (78.5)	23 (21.5)									

Table IV: Association between the type of practice and the responses- $n/\left(\%\right)$

Government				take dental ph	rotograpiis.				
	YES						NO	P Value	
			31 (27.9)		80 (72.1)		.36	67	
Private	153 (32.3) 320 (67.7)								
	Do you tak	e dental photogra	phs for your ever	ry patient?					
			YES				NO	P Va	
Government	26 (23.2) 86 (7							.83	34
Private			114 (24.2)				58 (75.8)		
	Do you tak	te verbal or writte	n consent while t	aking photogr	aphs of your pat	ient?			
		Written			Verbal		No con	nsent	
									Val
Government		20 (17.7)			79 (69.9)		14 (1		٠.
Private		54 (11.5)			330 (70.2)		86 (1	8.3)	
_	While takii	ng dental photogr		u prefer?			~		
<u> </u>			Mobile phones				Camera	P Va	
Government			31 (28.2)				9 (71.8)	.00.)()
Private	T.C.	1.1 1 6	269 (59.4)				84 (40.6)		
		mobile phones fo						Ort.	,
	iPhone	Samsung	Huawei	LG	Nokia	Sony	I don't use mobile phone	Other	Valı
Government	82 (73.9)	7 (6.3)	0	0	2(1.8)	2 (1.8)	18 (16.2)	0	.1
Private	366 (78.4)	30 (6.4)	8 (1.7)	5 (1.1)	5 (1.1)	4 (0.9)	43 (9.2)	6 (1.3)	
	If you prefer camera in taking dental photographs, which model are you currently using?								
	Canon	Nikon	Sony	Fujifil	I don't		Other	P Va	alue
				m	use camera				
Government	56 (51.4)	23 (21.1)	3 (2.8)	0	27 (24.8)		0	.53	31
Private	227 (49.5)	78 (17.0)	16 (3.5)	5 (1.1)	126 (27.5)		7 (1.5)		
	Do you sw	itch from camera	to mobile phone	or vice versa,	in taking photog	graph?			
			YES				NO	P Va	alue
Government			66 (58.4)			4	7 (41.6)	.52	20
Private			261 (55.1)			2	13 (44.9)		
	Do you this	nk quality matter	s in dental photog						
			YES				NO	P Va	
Government			103 (92.0)				9 (8.0)	.84	10
Private			436 (92.8)				34 (7.2)		
	Do you wo	ork with an assista	ınt while taking d	ental photogra		•			
		Sometimes			Always		Never		
Government		42 (37.2)			61 (54.0)			8.8)	
Private	261 (55.3) 168 (35.6)						43 (9.1)	
	Do you think the presence of an assistant will affect the quality of your pho					tograph?			
	·		YES						alue
Government	100 (88.5)						3 (11.5)	.34	19
Private	432 (91.3)						41 (8.7)		
2111410	Do you this	nk mobile phones				on in the clini			
<u>_</u>	C.	amera		Mobile phone	e		Both	None	
	Ci						1		Val
Government		(15.2)		15 (13.4)		5	7 (50.9)	23 (20.5)	Val

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	YES	NO	P Value
Government	92 (82.1)	20 (17.9)	.364
Private	367 (78.3)	102 (21.7)	
	Do you feel that infection control measures is better if you have a dental as	ssistant available?	
	YES	NO	P Value
Government	108 (96.4)	4 (3.6)	.032
Private	427 (90.1)	47 (9.9)	
	Are you aware that proper photographic documentation might play a big ro	ole in forensic dentistry?	
	YES	NO	P Value
Government	93 (82.3)	20 (17.7)	.131
Private	413 (87.7)	58 (12.3)	
	Do you think that dental photography should be introduced as an undergra-	duate course?	
	YES	NO	P Value
Government	84 (75.0)	28 (25.0)	.841
Private	356 (75.9)	113 (24.1)	

Table V: Association between the Professionals and the Responses- n/ (%)

	Do you feel	that you have enou	gh training to tak	ce dental photog	graphs?				
	YES NO							P Value	
Dental student			49 (30.0)				2 (70.7)	.0	07
Dentist			36 (40.9)			62	(57.4)		
	Do you take	o you take dental photographs for your every patient? YES NO							
-			alue 26						
Dental student	125 (25.2) 375 (77.5)								
Dentist			17 (19.3)			72	(67.3)		
Dentist	Do you take	verbal or written co		ing photographs	s of your patient?	12	(07.3)		
=		Written		81 8 7	Verbal		No conse	nt	P Value
Dental		48 (9.7)			352 (72.9)		81 (16.8))	0.000
student									
Dentist		27 (30.3)			63 (58.3)		19 (17.6)	
	While taking	g dental photograph						1	D 1
Dental			Mobile phon 277 (57.8)				Camera 218 (46.7)		P value .988
student			211 (31.6)				216 (40.7)		.900
Dentist			23 (27.4)				48 (46.6)		
	If you use m			ographs, which	band are you currently us	ing?		<u> </u>	
	iPhone	Samsung	Huawei	LG	Nokia	Sony	I don't use mobile phone	Other	P Valu
Dental	406(82.	26 (5.4)	5 (1.0)	3 (0.6)	5 (1.0)	5 (1.0)	45 (9.4)	4 (0.8)	.00
Student Dentist	0) 42 (50.0)	14 (13.3)	3 (2.9)	3 (2.9)	2 (2.9)	1 (1.9)	17	2 (1.9)	1
	(50.0)	annora in taking d	antal photograph	as which mode	l are you currently using?		(16.2)		
-	Canon	Nikon	Sony	Fujifil	I don't use camera		Other	PV	alue
	Canon	TTROIT	Bolly	m	r don't use camera		Julier	1 value	
Dental student	250(51. 8)	76 (16.2)	15 (3.2)	3 (0.6)	127 (27.1)	7	(1.5)	.2	39
Dentist	35 (41.2)	25 (23.6)	4 (3.8)	2 (1.9)	28 (26.4)		0		
	Do you swite	ch from camera to i	nobile phone or						
			YES				NO	P Value	
Dental	282 (56.5) 202 (41.5)							.0	01
Student Dentist			45 (50.6)			6/	(59.3)		
Dentist	Do you think	k quality matters in		ohs?		0-1	(37.3)		
	Do you tillin	a quarry matters m	YES	,		NO		P v	alue
Dental			466 (94.1)				2 (6.6)		190
student									
Dentist			77 (88.5)			11 (10.3)			
_	Do you work with an assistant while taking dental photographs?							DI	, 1
Dental	Sometimes Always Never 261 (52.5) 186 (38.4) 44 (9.1)								alue 12
student		201 (32.3)			100 (36.4)		44 (9.1)	.8	14
Dentist		47 (52.8)			45 (41.7)				
	Do you think the presence of an assistant will affect the quality of your photograph?						9 (8.3)		
			YES				NO		alue
Dental			451 (90.7)			41	(8.4)	.1	25
student			04 (02 2)				(12.2)		
Dentist	Do r 4h.' 1	r mahila et	81 (92.0)	Jama a	contomination in the 11'		(13.2)		
-		amera	cameras pose an	Mobile ph	contamination in the clinic		Both	None	I
	Ca	anicia		Moone bil	OHC		Dom	140116	<u> </u>

					Value
Dental	50 (10.1)	64 (13.2)	319 (65.8)	54	0.155
student				(11.1)	
Dentist	8 (9.0)	19 (17.9)	59 (55.7)	18	
				(17.0)	
	Do you follow any infection co	ontrol protocol for cleaning your camera/ mobile ph	nones in the clinic?		
		YES	NO	P V	alue
Dental student		389 (78.9)	91 (18.9)	0.0	007
Dentist		72 (80.9)	33 (30.6)		
	Do you feel that infection cont	rol measures is better if you have a dental assistant		•	
		YES	NO	P V	alue
Dental		453 (91.0)	48 (9.9)	.0	84
student					
Dentist		82 (92.1)	5 (4.6)		
	Are you aware that proper pho	tographic documentation might play a big role in fo	orensic dentistry?		
		YES	NO	P V	alue
Dental		430 (86.7)	62 (12.8)	.1	78
student			, , ,		
Dentist		74 (84.1)	19 (17.8)		
	Do you think that dental photo	graphy should be introduced as an undergraduate c	ourse?	•	
	•	YES	NO	P V	alue
Dental student		370 (74.9)	123 (25.5)	.3	83
Dentist		68 (77.3)	23 (21.5)	1	

Discussion

Upon deciding the photographic tool, majority of them selected mobile phones as their choice and one study done in 2017 by Haron et. al^[3] showed that the widely used of mobile has been increased in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery department for screening oral lesions and to refer a patient or not. They found it easier to take photographs especially it is a very light device other than the camera. They even compared the resolution of the mobile phone camera, the values improved with the resolution of the phone camera where sensitivity and specificity of 81.3% and 100% can be achieved with phone, where the camera resolution was 1080 · 1920 pixels. Hammond B. et Al [4] stated in their study in 2017 stated that while images can be taken with smart phone cameras, the authors highly recommend using a digital SLR camera system that will give the operator better control over image exposure and provide consistent, high quality photographs.

In recent years, the development of the camera in mobile phones has increased its use in the clinic increasing the rate of photographic evidence at the expense and jeopardy of using quality cameras such as traditional and dependable Canon and Nikon. This is a double-edged sword whereby dental health professionals and their patients have become increasingly comfortable and relaxed amidst the camera phone usage versus being intimidated by the

use of heavier and bulkier cameras like Canon and Nikon. To elaborate, dental professionals reported higher verbal consent from their patients compared to written consent due to the ease of use of mobile cameras which is the new revolution of mobile phones that has overwhelmed the camera industry. The mobile phone industry has desensitized people to the use of cameras with selfies, blogs, snapshots etc. to the point that patients are not alarmed nor hesitant to give their consent verbally as opposed to written consent at the drop of a hat when their dental health practitioner casually moves his/her phone from their pockets to snap a shot of their patients' oral cavity.

study In recent done in 2017 by Altiparmakogullari, Y. et al^[5], showed that the equipment of the photographs, crew needed for better photographs and many other factors prevent the clinician in taking high quality photographs but emphasize having better designed environment to achieve a better quality photographs. In our study, majority of responders accounted for (85%, n=499) of dental students. It should be noted that they are riddled with a schedule complete with clinical requirements, assignments, case presentations amongst others making Time an obstacle that is taking over their day to day lives at the dental school. This may explain why time is the main reason for not taking their patients photographs. In addition, to the lack of a dedicated and assigned

One on One dental assistant that would also help with the photography of patients, along with the proposed procedure armamentarium,

As our investigation showed that the majority of the dentists (64%, n=379) think, camera and mobile phone both can act as a cross contamination issue in the clinic, where they also responded that they follow an infection control protocol for cleaning their photographic equipment. In 2007, Jeske H. et al. [6] done a study on the usage of fixed and usual phones used by Anestheologists in the operating room, they found out that the fixed phones has less contamination of the bacteria than their usual phones. In that way, we can say that traditional cameras work as fixed phones which is not casually carried by the professionals and has different & less contamination than the usual mobile phones which is used by the healthcare professionals every day. Similarly, a study done in 2014 by Kumar B. et al. [7] in Jazan province of Saudi Arabia and a study done by Shakthievel G. et al^[8] in 2017 In India on mobile phones of healthcare setting, both showed that mobile phones carries so harmful bacteria like E.coli, Klebsiella oxytocia, Staphylococcus aureus that are antibiotic resistant, harmful to skin and some bacteria are resistant to Cefotoxin (MRSA).

Conclusions

As part of our daily dental practice, documentation is very important to avoid any legal issues about the patient or it is for our own benefit to understand the patient's mouth with closer view. The need for dental photography education is highly increased and dental assistant plays an essential part in infection control as well as in bringing high quality photographs, mobile devices usage and popularity has increased and they replace the role of the camera that's why quality has been compromised. Time is the main problem for not taking photographs as majority of the respondents are dental students and they have clinical requirements to finish so proper documentation of the patient through photographs often is compromised as well as they are not provided dental assistants with them so for time saving purposes they use mobile with the verbal consent of the patient because the patients are not intimidated by the bulkiness of any heavy object like DSLR cameras

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