Knowledge and Attitudes of Dentists towards Cone-Beam Computed Tomography in Iran

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Abstract

Background and Aim: We aimed to evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of Iranian dentists towards cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT).

Materials and Methods: A 20-item questionnaire was distributed among 410 Iranian dentistry graduates attending the 56th Congress of Iranian Dental Association held in Tehran, Iran. The questionnaire included items on demographic characteristics, namely full name, age, gender, work experience, type of current activity (individual or group), and the highest educational level. In addition, the questionnaire contained items on knowledge and attitudes of dentists. The obtained data were analyzed by using statistical tests.

Results: In this study, 49.3% and 22.4% of the subjects were male and female, respectively, 47.1% of whom used CBCT, while 49.8% did not. In detail, 72.2% of the dentists used the technique to evaluate the location of implant, whereas 19.7%, 3.2%, and 2.7% of the subjects applied it to localize the inferior dental canal, evaluate the location of implant and localize the canal, and performcephalometricanalysis. The main causes of lack of prescription of CBCT entailed high cost (80%), high rate of patient absorbed dose (27.6%), insufficient number of CBCT centers (46.3%), and long duration of the process (15.6%).

Conclusion: CBCT is an advantageous imaging technique in dentistry. With regards to the increased application of CBCT in all domains of dentistry, holding workshops in the form of exclusive courses or in congressescould help train dentists to use the technique.

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Key words: Cone-beam CT, Dentists, Attitudes, Knowledge, Radiology

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