

### Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in Implant Dentistry

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The study of clinical parameters to define implant success is widely used in research. The lagging component in implant dental research is the scope of patients' expectations. Patient expectations is one of the components of the triad of evidence-based dentistry, besides evidence from the literature and clinical expertise. In the present scenario of paradigm shift towards "patient-centered care", Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) as a primary outcome measurement is required because patient preferences have quantifiably higher relevance in clinical practice. PROMs has been defined as essentially "subjective" reports of patients' own perceptions of their oral health status and its impact on their daily life or quality of life.<sup>1</sup>

In the field of contemporary implant research, surrogate outcomes are widely used but they cannot be reflected as tangible benefits. Implant survival/loss is a tangible benefit, however, its manifestation takes longer duration and the incidence is generally low. The definition of successful treatment may vary among the clinician and the patient. The clinician may focus on improvement of surrogate markers whereas the patient may be expecting improvement in smile or confidence.<sup>33</sup> Thus, the objective outcomes that are valid according to the scientific research may not equate with the patient's perceived expectation. On the other hand, the aim of rehabilitative care is to improve the quality of life of the patient. On this regard, it can be considered rational to define PROMs as the most valid outcome measure which can help the patient to choose the best palliative treatment option for better health care.<sup>35</sup> Taking into account the feasibility of many treatment options, priority should be given to the option which is desired by the patient. Dental rehabilitation should be exclusively directed by the patients' needs and desires. The disparity between the clinician and patients' perception may be addressed with the administration of PROMs.

PROM is a key outcome in harmonizing communication between the clinician and patients, and improving patient satisfaction. There are currently no guidelines indicating the most appropriate PROMs for implant dentistry. The administration of PROMs in dental research is limited but will definitely be an inherent part of research in the near future.

#### REFERENCES

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