

KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS TOWARDS CAD-CAM TECHNOLOGY IN PROSTHODONTICS

Objectives: Computer aided design (CAD) – computer aided manufacturing (CAM) is irreplaceable and very important technology in dental medicine. Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate the knowledge and awareness toward CAD-CAM technology and its use in prosthodontics among students of dental medicine.

Materials and methods: The study was conducted among students at School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb. 216 students were included in this study. Participants were divided according level of their education: 77 preclinical students and 139 clinical students. Participant were also divided according to the gender. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the School of dental medicine University of Zagreb. All participants filled out the questionnaire specially designed for purpose of this study. The results were statistically analysed with a significance level of $p < 0.05$.

Results: All participants (216, 100%) included in this study have heard about CAD-CAM technology. Most of participants (204, 94.4%) did not attend any additional CAD-CAM course, they attended only regular lectures at the School of Dental Medicine ($p < 0.05$). Also, most of preclinical (72, 33.3%) and most of clinical (133, 61.6%) students believe that they are not sufficiently informed about CAD-CAM technology ($p < 0.05$). Most of preclinical (48, 22.3%) and most of clinical (70, 32.4%) students answered that they didn't see any CAD-CAM restoration ($p < 0.05$). Most of preclinical (73, 33.8%) and most of clinical (127, 58.8%) students stated that it is necessary to learn more about CAD-CAM technology at regular lectures ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions: According to the results obtained in this study, it could be concluded that students are not sufficiently informed about CAD-CAM technology in dental medicine regardless of their level of education (preclinical/clinical students). The results indicate the need for organisation of additional education toward CAD-CAM technology.

Keywords: CAD-CAM, knowledge, dental medicine

There is no potential conflict of interest.