



## Fixed Partial Denture Impression Techniques Practiced by Private Dental Practitioners. A Survey

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### Abstract

A survey was done to check what methods and materials do dentists generally use for making impressions in fixed partial dentures. It was found that dentists generally resort to easier methods and even materials that are relatively easy to use and are inexpensive.

**Keywords:** Dental; Survey

### Introduction

Because it is neither possible nor desirable to make patterns for fixed prostheses directly in the mouth, an impression, or negative likeness of the teeth and surrounding structures, is necessary to obtain a cast [1]. An acceptable impression must be an exact record of all aspects of the prepared tooth. All teeth in the arch and the soft tissues immediately surrounding the tooth preparation must be reproduced in the impression.[1] They will allow the cast to be accurately articulated and will contribute to proper contouring of the planned restoration. The patient's mouth is a challenging environment in which to make an accurate impression.<sup>1</sup> Therefore a survey was done amongst general dental practitioners to check what materials and methods are used to make impressions.

### Materials and methods

A questionnaire was prepared and sent to 100 dental practitioners. Only 75 responded. The practitioners were in the age group of 30-70 years. The dental surgeons were from Srinagar district. The questionnaire had six questions.

1. What impression material do you use for diagnostic impression before tooth preparation?
  - Alginate
  - Other (please specify)
  - None
2. Do you use gingival retraction?
  - Yes
  - No
3. Which method gingival retraction do you use routinely?
  - Gingival retraction cord
  - Electrosurgery
  - Laser
  - rotary curettage
4. Which tray do you use for making impression?
  - Custom tray
  - Stock tray
5. Which material do you use for impression after tooth preparation?
  - Alginate
  - Elastomeric impression material
  - Others (please specify)
6. If you are using elastomeric impression materials, which impression technique do you use?
  - Single mix technique
  - Dual mix technique

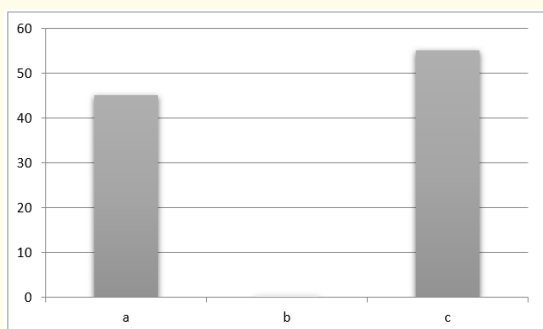
**Results**

It was observed that 55% of the practitioners did not take diagnostic impressions. The other 45% used alginate, no other material was used.

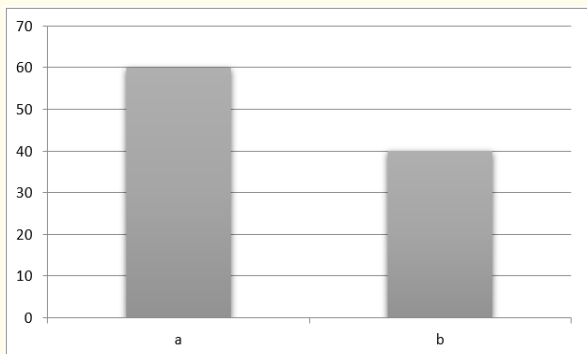
Gingival retraction was used by 60% of the practitioners. Amongst them 95% used gingival retraction cord and only 5% used electrosurgery/ laser or rotary curettage.

65% of the practitioners used stock tray for making impressions.

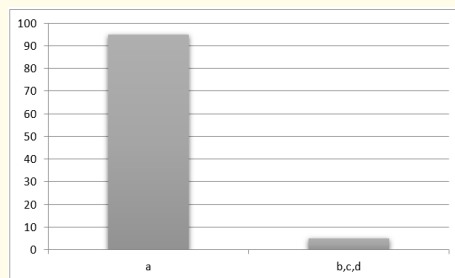
Most common impression material used is alginate impression material (70%). Only 30% used elastomeric impression material using single mix technique most commonly (58%) followed by multiple mix technique (42%).



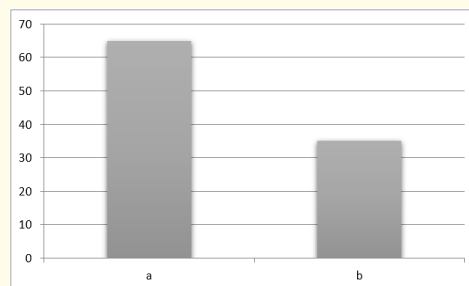
**Graph 1:** Showing which impression material is used for diagnostic impression.



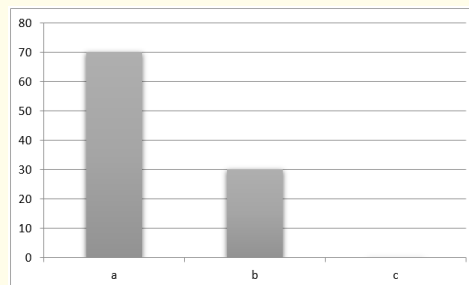
**Graph 2:** Showing if gingival retraction is used.



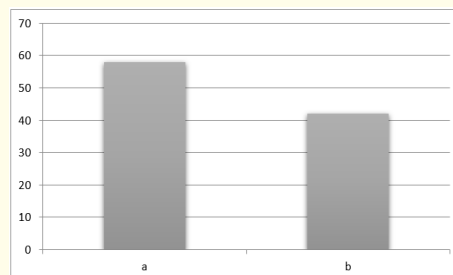
**Graph 3:** Showing which gingival retraction method is used.



**Graph 4:** Showing which type of tray is used.



**Graph 5:** Showing which impression material is used.



**Graph 6:** Showing which type of elastomeric impression material is used.

## Discussion

Impression making is an integral part of getting a good prosthesis. The survey was assessed and it was seen that mostly easier techniques were used by practitioners.

Most of the practitioners did not make diagnostic impressions. Diagnostic impressions are used to assess any mouth preparations that are to be done like enameloplasty etc. before making fixed prosthesis.

Gingival retraction was used by majority of the practitioners. When the preparation margins extend subgingivally, the adjacent gingival tissues must be displaced laterally to allow access and to provide adequate thickness of the impression material. This may require enlarging the gingival sulcus through mechanical, chemical, or surgical means and must be done without jeopardizing periodontal health.<sup>1</sup>For this gingival retraction is needed. Gingival retraction can be done using mechanical and chemico mechanical methods. Use of retraction cord was most common amongst these practitioners.

Stock tray was most used by the practitioners. The reason for this may be attributed to its ease in use, being economical. More over general dentists are more comfortable using the stock tray.

Alginate was used commonly for final impressions as it less expensive, easy to use and manipulate. It was followed by using elastomeric impression material which was not commonly used owing to its cost and as it is technically sensitive.

## Conclusion

This study was done to check trends flowed amongst dentists for making impressions and it was seen that dentists generally use easier methods and materials that are inexpensive and easier to use.

## Bibliography

1. Contemporary fixed Prosthodontics. Rosensteil. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Tissue management and impression making. Chapter 14.

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