

**PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS RELATED TO BEHAVIOR OF  
DENTAL PATIENTS TOWARDS HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AT  
DENTAL SECTION, SANDEMAN PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL  
QUETTA, PAKISTAN**



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ABSTRACT

Psychosocial factors and their relation to the preventive behavior of dental patients towards HIV/AIDS were assessed in 150 randomly selected patients in the dental section of Sandeman Provisional hospital, Quetta, Pakistan. The majority of the respondents were between the ages of 18-40 (mean = 36 years). Most of them were male, Muslims and attended university. A large proportion of the respondents had a good knowledge about AIDS, its causative agent, cure and mode of transmission. However, a few misconceptions existed among respondents concerning HIV'S mode of transmission. A majority of the respondents had a perception that one can't be cured once infected with HIV and most of them had the attitude that one should be treated with sterilized instruments in dental clinics. But a considerable number of respondents were unsure about most of the questions asked regarding attitude and perception, which indicated in overall low levels of perception and attitude. Significant associations were found between knowledge, attitude and perception and preventive behavior. Most of the respondents said that the mass media, including television and newspapers, were the main source of their information about HIV/AIDS. This study shows that the majority of the respondents demonstrated low levels of preventive behavior, in spite of their high level of knowledge. This is also due to high percentage of respondents who had low levels of perception and attitude.

KEY WORDS: AIDS / KNOWLEDGE / ATTITUDES / PERCEPTION/  
PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR

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