

1 Satisfaction level in dental phobic patients with implant-supported rehabilitation performed under general  
2 anaesthesia. ~~anesthesia in patients with dental phobia: a prospective study~~

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## Abstract

~~Background:~~ Phobic patients with dental phobia avoid dental treatment, impairing their oral health and making it challenging to offer them prosthetic rehabilitation. This study evaluated patients' experience of implant-supported ~~rehabilitation treatment~~ prosthetic treatment after implantation performed under general anaesthesia ~~anaesthesia~~ due to dental phobia and severe pharyngeal reflexes (SPR). The effect of ~~sex~~ gender, age, and ~~implant location of implantation~~ on patient satisfaction was ~~prospectively evaluated~~ tested.

~~Methods:~~ Two hundred and five patients underwent implantation under general anesthesia both in one or both jaws ~~maxilla and mandible, respectively~~. After a trans-gingival healing period of 6–8 weeks, fixed implant bridges were inserted. Patients ~~completed~~ were administered the Oral Health Impact Profile questionnaire (OHIP-14) ~~questionnaire and a~~ An additional set of six special questions ~~was also developed and considered~~. Analysis of ~~the~~ OHIP-14 total score was ~~made~~ analyzed using logistics regression. The Wald chi-square test was used to ~~analyse~~ analyze the effect of age, ~~sex~~ gender and ~~implant location on patient satisfaction of implantation~~. Effect sizes were estimated as odds ratios and associated 95% Wald confidence intervals. ~~Results:~~ Eighty-two of the 205 patients were included after prosthetic treatment. After the start of treatment, 38 patients were excluded (4 died and 34 could ~~not~~ be reached). ~~Forty-three patients (age: 30–90 years) were finally included in the OHIP-14 analyses were made by 43 patients (30–90 years) after exclusion. In total, 67% of 67% of patients were totally satisfied with the whole implant rehabilitation (scoreing 0). Mean of total score was 2.5. Only age significantly affected significantly (Pp=0.014) patients satisfaction. The obtained data indicate that younger patients (30–64 years), especially women, were less satisfied with their treatment (4.95) than older patients (0.3) for age group (65–90 years). Special questions' data showed that 94.5% of patients were satisfied with their treatment. 77.3% continued regular check-up after treatment and 96.9% would undergo the same treatment again. 95.5% would recommend implants to a friend of colleague.~~

~~Conclusion:~~ Sex Gender and ~~implant location of implantation~~ had ~~ve~~ no significant influence on patient satisfaction. Younger patients, especially women, ~~were~~ are less satisfied than older patients.

## Introduction

Anxious patients ~~due to~~ with dental phobia or severe pharyngeal reflexes (SPR) show poorer oral health and more decayed and missing teeth than typical individuals [1]. Prosthetic treatments are needed for ~~recovery of~~ replacing missing teeth in these patients; however, these patients are uncooperative and show poor compliance to dental treatment ~~compliance~~, which complicates any treatment, increases the risk of failure, and makes it difficult to perform implant-supported rehabilitation [2, 3]. A ~~very~~ long procedure is expected if

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Further reduction warrants extensive deletions that require your discretion. I would request you to go through the abstract and delete all details that you deem least important/inessential so that this limit can be met. I have recommended some sentences for deletion.

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implantation is considered for these patients. Consequently, local anesthesia ~~is will be~~ insufficient ~~for to~~ perform an adequate operation [4, 5]. In such cases, surgery under general anesthesia ~~is could be~~ an option that enables patients undergoing implant treatment to improve their oral health, and well-being.

General ~~anaesthesia~~anesthesia makes it ~~convenient possible~~ for patients to ~~have undergo~~ all surgical procedures ~~carried out~~ in one session, ~~and while~~ the implants can be installed in the maxilla, ~~or~~ mandible, or ~~if needed in~~ both jaws in ~~one another single~~ appointment [6]. ~~As known, r~~ Rehabilitation with implants prevents continuous alveolar bone resorption, ~~and~~ preserves alveolar ridge height and width, ~~which ensures ensuring~~ positive aesthetic outcomes [7, 8] ~~and,~~ comfort and efficacy of prosthetic reconstruction [9–10, 11]. Additional positive factors for patients are increase in self-esteem, and patients' satisfaction [12, 13].

When assessing the outcome of implant treatment, it is important to consider ~~both the~~ clinicians' and ~~the~~ patients' ~~appraisals perspectives~~ [14–15, 16]. For ~~the~~ clinicians, implant survival, prosthesis longevity, and ~~the~~ complications are the most important factors. ~~However~~ ~~On the other hand,~~ cost effectiveness ~~benefit, as well as~~ social and psychological impact of the treatment are more important for ~~the~~ patients [17, 18]. Patients' satisfaction depends on function, comfort, esthetics, and speech disruption [15, 17] and may represent a crucial factor of implant success for the patient [19–20, 21, 22]. Patient satisfaction is seen ~~as~~ a vital aspect ~~by evaluating of~~ the overall quality of dental rehabilitation and should be ~~made~~ determined on a regular basis to allow clinical practitioners to assess their services [23–24, 25].

The Oral Health Impact Profile (OHIP) questionnaire is an instrument developed ~~to be used for use~~ in clinical studies [26–27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33] to measure ~~o~~ Oral ~~h~~ Health-related ~~q~~ Quality of ~~l~~ Life (OHRQoL). Several short versions of this tool have been developed, such as ~~the version~~ OHIP-14, ~~which consists of seven subgroups~~ with two questions for each ~~subgroup one~~ [27, 28, 31]. ~~The OHIP-14 questionnaire used in this the current~~ investigation was previously validated and recommended for use in clinical studies [27, 28, 31]; it covers a wide range of oral health-related problems, ~~i.e.~~ functional limitation, physical discomfort, psychological discomfort, physical disability, psychological disability, social disability, and handicap [26, 29–30, 31].

Most dental satisfaction studies ~~were have been~~ performed on ~~patients who have undergone~~ general dental treatment [34], and patients ~~with dental anxiety show have been shown to be significantly~~ considerably associated with ~~greater~~ high dissatisfaction [35]. ~~Various studies have evaluated~~ ~~investigations were made to study patient~~ satisfaction with implant treatment [41, 42]. ~~However, t~~ ~~But to the best of our the~~ knowledge of ~~the authors of this study, there is~~ no study ~~has~~ investigated satisfaction of patients ~~experiencing suffering from~~ dental phobia or SPR ~~after with~~ implant treatment under general anesthesia. ~~Therefore, this study fills an important gap in the academic field and should be used to promote a debate.~~

~~Therefore, the present the study aimed of the study is therefore~~ to evaluate ~~the~~ satisfaction of partially edentulous patients, ~~experiencing suffering from~~ dental phobia and SPR, with their implant-supported rehabilitation ~~performed~~ ~~carried out~~ under general anesthesia in one or both jaws. The effect of ~~sex~~ gender,

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age, and implant location of implantation was ill be tested evaluated. This study evaluated patients' experience of oral surgical and prosthetic procedures as well as their satisfaction with the treatment outcome. The hypotheses of this study are as follows: 1) Patients exhibiting suffering from dental phobia and SPR will experience good patient satisfaction after implant treatment under general anesthesia; 2) age, sex gender, and implant location of implantation will affect patients satisfaction; and 3) success of rehabilitation with fixed implant fixed bridges by in these patients is similar to that in patients at by patients treated without general anesthesia.

## Results

Eighty-two patients who were treated with implants under general anesthesia between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2012, 01.01.2006 to 31.12.2012 were and included and treated in this study. Subsequently After start, 38 patients were excluded (4 died and 34 could not be reached to complete the were lost to follow-up follow-up after prosthetic treatment). One patient had missing data on several OHIP-14 items. The total patients' number of patients included in the analyses of the OHIP-14 analyses was was 43 (age range: 30–90 years). Table 2 shows the distribution of sex gender, age, and implant location of implantation among these patients. The majority of patients were women females (63.6%). Of all implants inserted, 47.7% of the implants were inserted in the maxilla and 31.8% of the patients had implants were installed inserted in both jaws.

The implant treatment of all 43 patients included in this study was successful with regard to as far as function and comfort. The follow-up period after the prosthetic reconstruction ranged from 3 to 9 years. Figure 1 shows the OHIP-14 total score distribution for all patients. The OHIP-14 total score was low for the majority of the patients, with 67% scoring 0 and with a mean value total score of 2.5. The OHIP-14 total score by subgroups, i.e., sex gender, age, and type of intervention group, are is shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4, respectively. The graphs seem to suggest some differences. However, the data indicate that younger patients (age group 30–64 years), especially young women, were are less satisfied (mean = 4.95 ± 0.98) than older patients (age group 65–90 years) with (mean = 0.3 ± 0.76). Logistic regression analysis (Table 3) was used to investigate the relationship between these background variables and the OHIP-14 total score.

## Discussion

The literature shows that patients satisfaction has been considered as an important criterion for treatment success since it is associated with compliance and in turn, anticipated treatment quality [9,10,11, 37]. The first hypothesis of this the current study was confirmed because the results clearly demonstrated that the included patients were are generally satisfied with their treatment and had ve good OHRQoL after treatment. The overall of patients showed have even changes d in their dental behaviour behavior, which and continued

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Table 2 will become Table 1

Table 3 will become Table 2

Table 1 will become Table 3

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When submitting a revised manuscript, you must upload all figures as separate figure files, ensuring th...

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Recommended action: Please provide more details here.

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110 even after the performed oral rehabilitation, and they to visited a dentist or an oral hygienist for regular  
111 check-ups. The second hypothesis was partially confirmed in part because the obtained data showed that  
112 only age significantly affecteds patient satisfaction. Younger patients are-were less satisfied than older  
113 patients. However, But patients' sexgender and implant location of implantation did not influence patient  
114 satisfaction. Evaluation of the results showed that the implant-supported bridges were successfully  
115 maintained in all patients after 3 to 9 years of function, which confirmed the third hypothesis. The sSuccess  
116 was measured as the retention of the original screw-retained bridges over time. Patient satisfaction is an  
117 important criterion for treatment success since it is associated with compliance and, in turn, anticipated  
118 treatment quality [9–11, 37]. Similar results of success have been shown-reported in several studies on  
119 patients treated without general anesthesia [9, 10, 37, 38, 39].

120 Precise evaluation of the results indicateds that only age has a statistically significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on  
121 patients' satisfaction, reflecting-and that the number of patients viewing themselves as "problem free"  
122 increased with age. Analyses of data by subgroups indicated that younger patients, especially women,  
123 showed more psychological discomfort and are-were less satisfied than older patients (Figs. 2 and 3). This is  
124 an interesting observation and may reflectsuggests that aesthetics has become an important issue in modern  
125 society [40] and that the social lifestyle and attitude of younger peoples' social life style and attitude differ  
126 differ from those of older individuals-people. These results are in line with those of a previous study [28],  
127 which also shows that oral discomfort has different influences on life depending on sexgender and age. In  
128 the current study, the sexGender of patients and location of the intervention showed in this study no  
129 significant influence on patients' satisfaction ( $P > 0.05$ ). However, a remarkably aspect is that, in all age  
130 groups presented in the graph 2, there are less satisfied-women were less satisfied with their treatment than  
131 men.

132 These data are in accordance with the findings of Pjetursson et al. [41] who- [41] findings; they-reported find  
133 that more than 90% of patients treated with crowns or implant-supported fixed partial dentures are  
134 completely satisfied. The obtained results confirmed that 77.3% of the included patients in this study visited  
135 a dentist or an oral hygienist for regular check-up after treatment-check-up. Most patients (93.9%) did not  
136 regret this kind of treatment and (96.6%) were willing to have the same treatment performed again if  
137 neededrequired.

138 The findings of this-the current study indicate that the preoperative psychological factors due to dental  
139 phobia and SPRs have no effect on post-treatment patients' satisfaction with their implant treatment  
140 performed under general anesthesia.

141 From the results we conclude, To conclude, with regard to the problem addressed that it is recommended to  
142 perform-that implant treatment should be performed under general anesthesia on-in patients with dental  
143 phobia and SPR-under general anesthesia. Consequently, implant-supported prostheses can-would become a  
144 treatment option for these patients who otherwise refuse dental treatment, because of due to the availability

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Recommended action: Please explain the meaning of the term "problem free" in this context.

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**Commented [A43]:** Please clarify if you are referring to the current study or the study by Pjetursson et al. here.

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of general anesthesia become a treatment option for these patients who otherwise would stay refusing any  
Furthermore, contact to the dental professionals, who in turn, have usually excluded implant treatment in in  
eases involving patients with phobia or SPRs.

## Methods

In the present study, the OHIP-14 questionnaire was used to measure patient satisfaction in this  
investigation. It is a 14-questions survey, grouped into as seven domains: functional limitation, physical pain,  
psychological discomfort, physical disability, psychological disability, social disability, and handicap  
(Annex). The OHIP-14 questionnaire has been previously translated into Swedish, and the reliability and  
validity has have been tested and the questionnaire has been recommended for use in studies in the Swedish  
population [28]. Additionally, a set of six special questions related to patients' dental behaviour/behavior and  
treatment satisfaction (Table 1) was developed and used in Swedish-Sweden and used as well. The study  
proposal was submitted to the ethical committee of Stockholm in Sweden (No 2014/1811-31/1). The board  
of the ethical committee did not see any ethical research obstacles to this study.

### Study population

This prospective study included/volved partially edentulous patients who had lost their teeth in one or both  
jaws and were treated under general anesthesia with screw-retained fixed implant bridges between  
January 1, 2006/2006, to and 31 December 31, 2012/2012, in a private clinic in Stockholm, Sweden. Informed  
consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study. All treated patients had to be in a  
good general health condition to be eligible for undergoing general anaesthesia/anesthesia, which was  
performed and monitored by an anaesthetist/anaesthetist. The implant surgery itself did not differ from the  
conventional implant procedure used for non-phobic patients treated without general anaesthesia/anesthesia.

### Inclusion criteria

Patients were selected according to the following inclusion criteria:

- 1) Patients with dental phobia and ~~SPR~~ severe pharyngeal reflexes.
- 2) patients with in good general health ~~condition~~.
- 3) patients wWith edentulous maxilla, mandible, or both-
- 4) patients wWith edentulous jaws a minimum of 6 months after extraction-
- 5) patients wWith no bone augmentation prior to or in combination with implant insertion-
- 6) Implantation performed under general anaesthesia/anesthesia-
- 7) implantation wWith 4-6 Straumann implants (Straumann AG, Basel, Switzerland) in the maxilla-
- 8) implantation wWith 4-5 Straumann implants in the mandible-

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Identifies the institutional and/or licensing committee that approved the experiments, including any relevant details.

**Confirms that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant named guidelines and regulations.**

**Confirms that informed consent was obtained from all participants and/or their legal guardians.**

**Please ensure that the last two points are adhered to.**

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176 9) implantation wWith screw-~~retained~~ fixed implant bridges.

177 Exclusion criteria

178 The following pPatients were excluded from the study:

- 179 1) patients tTreated without general ~~anaesthesia~~anesthesia.
- 180 2) patients tTreated with an other implant system other than Straumann implants.
- 181 3) patients wWith ~~other~~ rehabilitation other than screw-~~retained~~ fixed implant bridges.
- 182 4) patients tTreated with bone augmentation ~~were excluded~~.

183 *Treatment protocol*

184 Patients were treated according to the following protocol:

- 185 1) Total extraction due to caries or periodontitis or both was ~~done performed~~ under general  
186 ~~anaesthesia~~anesthesia, followed by at least a 6-month healing period.
- 187 2) Interim removable dentures were ~~fabricated~~produced in advance and used by the patient during the  
188 healing period.
- 189 3) Straumann implants were placed in the edentulous maxilla, mandible, or both jaws (4–6 implants in the  
190 maxilla and 4–5 implants in the mandible) while patients were under general ~~anaesthesia~~anesthesia in the  
191 edentulous one jaw or in both (4–6 implants in maxilla, 4–5 implants in mandible).
- 192 4) A trans-gingival healing period of a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks was maintained before continuing the  
193 treatment (delayed loading).
- 194 5) Final restoration with fFixed implant bridges was performed. ~~treatment was the final restoration~~.

195 *Protocol for general anaesthesia*

196 Premedical evaluation of each patient was performed by the ~~anaesthetist~~anesthetist. General anesthesia was  
197 preoperatively induced~~Induction starts preoperatively in through~~ a peripheral venous line with 4 mg  
198 ~~b~~Betamethasone~~e~~; (Celestone, Merck & Co. Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ USA), 0.5 mg ~~a~~Atropine sulphate  
199 (Myian AB, Stockholm, Sweden), and 2 g ~~b~~Benzylpenicillin (Meda AB, Solna, Sweden). In case of allergy  
200 to ~~b~~Benzylpenicillin, clindamycin was used (Clindamycin Orifarm, Stockholm Sweden). Fluid with  
201 glucose, ~~r~~Rehdrex 500 mL (Fresenius Kabi, Halden Norway), was administered during  
202 ~~anaesthesia~~anesthesia (Fresenius Kabi, Halden Norway).

203 *Protocol for surgical procedure under general anaesthesia*

204 Xylocaine/adrenaline (Dentsply Pharmaceutical, ONY, United Kingdom) was used ~~as for~~ local  
205 ~~anaesthesia~~anesthesia. A sSurgical flap was ~~designed~~ individually designed allowing good inspection of the

206 bone and surrounding area. ~~Further, 4–6 or 4–5~~ Straumann implants ~~4 to 6 and 4 to 5~~ were placed in the  
207 maxilla and mandible, respectively. The implants were inserted with external saline cooling of the drills.  
208 Healing abutments ~~were applied~~ were placed for external healing. Wound closure was done with Vicryl 3–0  
209 (Ethicon, Johnson & Johnson, Diegen, Belgium). The patients were allowed to use their soft relined  
210 removable dentures directly after implant insertion. A minimum of 6 to 8 weeks of healing time was  
211 maintained before taking an impression ~~taking~~ for prosthetic restoration.

#### 212 *Data collection*

213 Data ~~of from~~ the OHIP-14 questionnaire and the set of special questions were collected through follow-up  
214 visits at least 3 years after prosthetic treatment. The patients filled the patient consent form and ~~the~~  
215 questionnaires at the recall examination under the supervision of one of the authors who ~~was~~ is not involved  
216 in the treatment to avoid bias and any effects of interpersonal reactions. The ~~individuals~~ patients expressed  
217 their level of satisfaction by answering questions. These ~~se~~ answers ~~hav~~ could have a score from 0 to 5.

#### 218 *Data analysis/statistical methods*

219 The ~~n~~ Number, sex, and age of the included patients, ~~gender, age,~~ number of ~~installed~~ implants placed, and  
220 date of implant surgery ~~were are summarised~~ summarized using descriptive statistics, including mean,  
221 standard ~~(SD)~~ deviation, median, range, frequency, and percentage. The OHIP-14 total score was analyzed  
222 using logistic regression. The Wald chi-square test was used to analyze the effect of age, sex, and implant  
223 location. Effect sizes were estimated as odds ratios and associated 95% Wald confidence intervals.

#### 225 Data Availability Statement

#### 226 Acknowledgements

#### 227 Author Contributions

#### 228 Additional Information

#### 229 Competing Interest Statement

#### 230 References

#### 231 Figure Legends

#### 232 Tables

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Recommended action: Please mention what each score indicates

**Commented [A55]:** Focus area: Statistical guidelines

Recommended action: Data sets should be summarized with descriptive statistics, which should include the n value for each data set, a clearly labelled measure of center (such as the mean or the median), and a clearl...

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**Commented [A60]:** You must include a Data Availability Statement in all submitted manuscripts (at the end of the main text, before the References section)

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