

5. Performance and acceptability of an innovative wheel chair recliner among patients and dental practitioners

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Performance and acceptability of an innovative wheel chair recliner among patients and dental practitioners. Background: good oral health plays a big role to achieve good systemic health and it becomes more important for the persons who are specially-abled. According to census 2011, 2.1% of the population has one or the other type of special ability. Out of these 27% have movement issues. An automated wheel chair recliner was devised that helps to mimic dental chair functioning at wheelchair itself.. Aim:to measure the performance and acceptability of wheel chair recliner among patients and dental practitioners.. Method: 100 wheelchair bound patients and 50-dental practitioners were evaluated. Patients were assessed by eight items questionnaire covering patient comfort/acceptability related with positioning, reclining, repositioning, fear of fall, joy, discomfort, perception regarding dentist's discomfort and use in future. Dental practitioners were evaluated on 7-items, with respect to handling, positioning, reclining, operability, working area needs and perception of safety using. . Results: out of a total possible score of 32, 2% patients had score < 16, 18% had score 17-20, 37% had score 21-24, 39% had score 25-28 and 3% had score >28. Mean scores on a 10-point scale ranged from 2.47 ± 1.23 (handling) to 3.40 ± 0.74 (perception of safety). Mean total scores were 45.98 ± 3.81 . Majority (78%) had acceptability score graded as good (score 42-56) remaining 22% had scores graded as fair (score 35-42).. Conclusion: the acceptability rates were good to very good in both dental practitioners and patients. The use of wheelchair recliner could be recommended in routine clinical practice..

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