

# Assessing Dentists's Preferences for Treatment of Congenitally Missing Maxillary Lateral Incisors

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## Background

Missing maxillary lateral incisors create an aesthetic and functional problem to the patient and present challenging treatment planning for dentists.

The objectives of this study were to determine the preferred treatment approach by dentists when planning treatment for patients with congenitally missing maxillary lateral incisors, and to assess the most common treatment option dentists take when replacing maxillary lateral incisors prosthetically in adults.

## Materials and Methods

This is a descriptive cross sectional study in which self-administered questionnaire was distributed to 12 specialists in removable prosthodontics, 18 specialists in restorative dentistry, 14 specialists in orthodontics, as well as 173 general dentists registered in Sudanese Medical Council (SMC) practicing in Khartoum State.

## Results

General practitioners (72.7%), prosthodontists (92.9%) and, restorative dentists (80%) preferred prosthodontic replacement for the missing maxillary lateral incisors, while orthodontists (57.1%) preferred canine substitution. Most general practitioners (62.7%), prosthodontists (71.4), and orthodontists (92.9%).and (40%) restorative specialists, chose crown retained implant as the most preferable option for replacing missing lateral incisor prosthetically.

There was a statistically significant difference between type of dental specialty and treatment modalities for children over the age of twelve. General practitioners (56%) preferred removable partial dentures while a mere 17.2% preferred to carry out no treatment. All Prosthodontists (100%) preferred the treatment with removable partial dentures. Restorative dentists preferred removable partial dentures and adhesive bridges to an equal percent (33.3%). Fifty percent of orthodontists treating children with missing lateral incisors preferred removable partial dentures followed by (28.6%) who preferred canine substitution.

## Conclusion

There were variations in dentists' preference for treating adults and children over 12 years of age with congenitally missing lateral incisors and several factors were responsible for the variation of dentists' decision.