



**A CLINICAL STUDY TO COMPARE BETWEEN UNSTIMULATED AND STIMULATED WHOLE SALIVARY FLOW RATE BEFORE AND AFTER COMPLETE DENTURE PLACEMENT IN DIABETIC AND NON DIABETIC PATIENTS**

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**ARTICLE INFO**

**Article History:**

Received 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Received in revised form 29<sup>th</sup>

January, 2020

Accepted 05<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

Published online 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

**Key words:**

Unstimulated Saliva, Stimulated Saliva, Salivary Flow Rate, Diabetes Mellitus.

**ABSTRACT**

**Aim** – The aim of this study was to compare between unstimulated and stimulated whole salivary flow rate before, immediately after and 2 months after complete denture placement in diabetic and non- diabetic patients.

**Materials and Methods** – In this study, total 40 edentulous individuals requiring complete denture prosthesis were selected from the Department of Prosthodontics, Coorg Institute of Dental Sciences, Virajpet, Karnataka, India. 20 patients were healthy and 20 patients were having type II diabetes mellitus. The unstimulated and stimulated whole salivary flow rates were measured at three stages i.e. i) Before complete denture placement; ii) Immediately after complete denture placement; and iii) After 2 months of complete denture placement. Saliva production was stimulated by chewing paraffin wax. Flow rate was calculated as collected volume/collection time. Statistical analysis was done by Independent t test and One Way ANOVA test for comparison.

**Results** - Statistically significant differences were seen in unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rate before, immediately after, and after 2 months of complete denture placement. Salivary flow rates were higher for non-diabetic patients than diabetic patients. Compared to baseline i.e. before denture placement, salivary flow rates were significantly higher immediately after and 2 months after denture placement in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants.

**Conclusion** - Stimulated whole salivary flow rates were significantly higher than the unstimulated whole salivary flow rates obtained before, immediately after, and after 2 months of complete denture placement in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Saliva is a complex biological fluid which plays a major role in local and systemic defense of the oral cavity and keeps oral mucosa healthy.<sup>1</sup> It also plays an important role in defense of the oropharyngeal region, and the upper gastrointestinal tract.<sup>1</sup> Saliva contributes to the maintenance of oro-esophageal, mucosal integrity by lubrication, hydration, clearance, buffering and also performs several important functions such as mineralization, facilitating taste, tissue coating, and antimicrobial activity.<sup>1</sup>

Reduced salivary flow has deleterious effects on oral health.

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<sup>2</sup>It increases risk of dental diseases like dental caries, periodontitis, oral infections like candidiasis. It also induces symptoms like halitosis, burning sensation and oral soreness, difficulty in mastication and speech, dysphagia.<sup>2</sup> Hyposalivation affects the quality of life and can be caused by conditions like aging, use of certain drugs, treatment with radiation and certain diseases such as diabetes mellitus.<sup>3</sup>

Diabetes mellitus is a complex metabolic syndrome characterized by hyperglycemia and disturbances in the metabolism of carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids.<sup>4</sup> Type 1 or insulin dependent diabetes and type 2 or non insulin dependent diabetes are the two major types of diabetes.<sup>4</sup> Type 2 diabetes mellitus is the fifth most common chronic condition and the sixth leading cause of mortality among the elderly.<sup>5</sup>

There is evidence that adverse hormonal, micro vascular, and neuronal changes in poorly controlled diabetes could contribute to salivary gland hypofunction in older individuals.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, salivary hypofunction can result in dysphagia and dysgeusia, leading to alterations in dietary selection that may compromise nutritional status.<sup>5</sup>

Diabetes mellitus has been associated with oral complications such as periodontal disease, hyposalivation and xerostomia.<sup>3</sup> It has been reported that the alterations in salivary flow rate and its compositions could affect the development, symptoms and severity of oral changes in diabetic patients.<sup>4</sup>

Studies have been done earlier in the literature concentrated on salivary flow rate and pH individually and their relevance in particular in dentate patients.<sup>1</sup> But no studies have been done on salivary flow rate for edentulous patients with diabetes mellitus wearing complete denture prosthesis and hence this study has been planned to compare between unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rate before and after complete denture placement in diabetic and non-diabetic patients.

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

The participants for this study were 40 edentulous individuals including both males and females with the age group of greater than 45 years with the need of prosthetic rehabilitation of complete denture were selected from the Department of Prosthodontics, Crown and Bridge and Implantology, Coorg Institute of Dental Sciences, Virajpet, Karnataka, India.

20 Edentulous healthy individuals and 20 patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus without the habit of smoking and/or chewing tobacco who required complete denture prostheses having no previous experience of wearing complete dentures were included for this study. The proposed study was explained to each of the selected patients and his/her written consent was obtained prior to commencement of the study. Completely edentulous 40 patients were divided into two groups :

- ✓ Experimental group: Patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (n = 20)
- ✓ Control group : Healthy patients without any systemic disease (n = 20)

### **Inclusion Criteria**

1. Completely edentulous patients in need of complete denture therapy
2. Patients with age equal to or greater than 45 years
3. Patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus (n = 20)

### **Exclusion Criteria**

1. Patients with history of any allergic or adverse reaction to the materials used in the study
2. Patients who were previous denture wearers.
3. Patients who did not have previous medical record.
4. Patients with a history of or undergoing radiotherapy
5. Patients who refused to give informed consent.

### **Materials used**

- ✓ Distilled water
- ✓ Paraffin wax

### **Armamentarium**

- ✓ Disposable glass
- ✓ Glass funnel
- ✓ Graduated measuring jar

### **Method of Collection of Sample**

The procedure selected for this study was spitting method for collecting resting (unstimulated) and stimulated whole saliva. The participants were asked to chew paraffin wax (Therma wax, Bose products, Howrah, West Bengal) i.e. mechanical method for stimulating whole saliva. The participants were asked to seat comfortably on the dental chair, with eyes open and head tilted forward. The participants were asked to rinse their mouths for 5 seconds with 10 mL distilled water. (Figure 1) Following the spitting out of the water and initial swallow, whole saliva was collected in graduated measuring jar (Figure 2) by spitting into a graduated measuring jar every 30 seconds with the help of glass funnel. (Figure 3 & 4).

The experiment was carried out until 5 mL of whole saliva was collected and collection time was recorded. The participants were instructed not to swallow any amount of saliva that was being produced during collection of sample.

The flow rates of whole saliva were measured at following different stages.

1. Unstimulated and stimulated whole saliva before complete denture placement
2. Unstimulated and stimulated whole saliva immediately after and 2 months after complete denture placement.

### **Flow rate will be calculated as**

Salivary flow rate = Collected volume/ collection time

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software. The data was collected and fed in SPSS (IBM version 23) for the statistical analysis. The descriptive statistics included mean and standard deviation. The inferential statistics included Independent t test and One Way ANOVA test for comparison.

## **RESULTS**

This in-vivo study was carried out to compare and evaluate between unstimulated and stimulated whole salivary flow rate before denture placement, immediately and 2 months after complete denture placement in diabetic and non-diabetic patients.

Salivary flow rates for both the groups were calculated at following stages-

Unstimulated salivary flow rate (USF) – 1) Before denture placement (Baseline)

- 2) Immediately after denture placement
- 3) 2 months after denture placement

Stimulated salivary flow rate (SSF) -1) Before denture placement (Baseline)

- 2) Immediately after denture placement
- 3) 2 months after denture placement

Salivary flow rate was expressed in ml/min. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software. The data was collected and fed in SPSS (IBM version 23) for the statistical analysis. The descriptive statistics included mean and standard

deviation. The inferential statistics included Independent t test and One Way ANOVA test for comparison.

**The results of the study were as follows**

Descriptive statistical comparison of mean salivary flow rate (unstimulated and stimulated) between non-diabetic and diabetic participants in table 1 revealed that stimulated salivary flow rates were significantly higher than the unstimulated salivary flow rates obtained before, immediately after and 2 months after complete denture insertion. Table 1 also showed that unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rate values were significantly higher in non-diabetic participants than diabetic participants at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion. The same results were shown in Graph 1.

Descriptive statistical comparison of unstimulated and stimulated mean salivary flow rate among non-diabetic participants and among diabetic participants in table 2 showed that stimulated salivary flow rate values were significantly higher than unstimulated salivary flow rate for both diabetic and non-diabetic participants at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion. Among non-diabetic group, values obtained were higher for stimulated salivary flow rate immediately after denture insertion followed by 2 months after denture insertion compared to baseline (before denture insertion). The results obtained were statistically significant. Among diabetic group, values obtained were higher for stimulated salivary flow rate immediately after denture insertion followed by 2 months after denture insertion compared to baseline (before denture insertion). The results obtained were highly significant.

Descriptive statistical comparison among unstimulated and among stimulated mean salivary flow rate at at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion in both non-diabetic and diabetic patients in table 3 revealed that among unstimulated mean salivary flow rate, higher values were obtained after immediately denture insertion followed by 2 months after denture insertion compared to baseline (before denture insertion) in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants. The results obtained were highly significant. It also showed that among stimulated mean salivary flow rate, higher values were obtained after immediately denture insertion followed by 2 months after denture insertion compared to baseline (before denture insertion) in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants. The results obtained were highly significant.

**Table 1** Descriptive statistical comparison of mean salivary flow rate (unstimulated and stimulated) between non-diabetic and diabetic participants at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion

|                 |              | Mean   | Standard deviation | T     | Significance |
|-----------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| USF baseline    | Non diabetic | .4140  | .08702             | 7.368 | 0.005(H.S)   |
|                 | Diabetic     | .2535  | .04380             |       |              |
| SSFbaseline     | Non diabetic | .5965  | .16122             | 7.295 | 0.000(H.S)   |
|                 | Diabetic     | .3220  | .04819             |       |              |
| USF Immediately | Non diabetic | .8310  | .21076             | 7.822 | 0.002(H.S)   |
|                 | Diabetic     | .4340  | .08426             |       |              |
| SSF Immediately | Non diabetic | 1.2140 | .32954             | 5.462 | 0.000(H.S)   |
|                 | Diabetic     | .7735  | .14658             |       |              |
| USF 2months     | Non diabetic | .6290  | .10244             | 3.957 | 0.000(H.S)   |

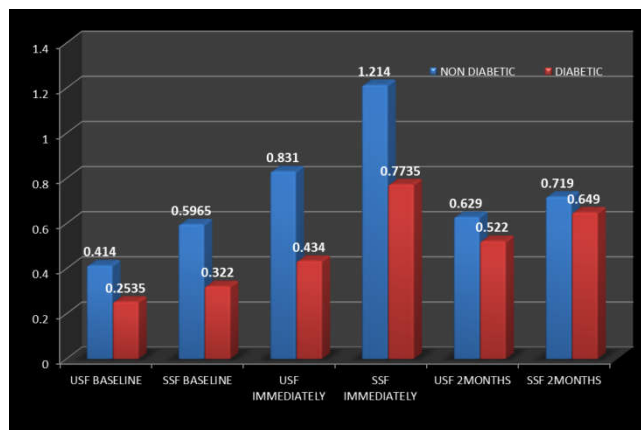
|             |              |       |        |       |          |
|-------------|--------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|
| SSF 2months | Diabetic     | .5220 | .06429 | 2.154 | 0.038(S) |
|             | Non diabetic | .7190 | .11102 |       |          |
|             | Diabetic     | .6490 | .09375 |       |          |

**Table 2** Descriptive statistical comparison of unstimulated and stimulated mean salivary flow rate among non-diabetic participants at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion and among diabetic participants at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion

|              |             | Mean | Standard deviation | T      | Significance |            |
|--------------|-------------|------|--------------------|--------|--------------|------------|
| Non diabetic | Baseline    | USF  | .4140              | .08702 | 4.455        | 0.019(S)   |
|              |             | SSF  | .5965              | .16122 |              |            |
|              | Immediately | USF  | .8310              | .21076 | 4.379        | 0.015(S)   |
|              |             | SSF  | 1.2140             | .32954 |              |            |
|              | 2 months    | USF  | .6290              | .10244 | 2.664        | 0.011(S)   |
|              |             | SSF  | .7190              | .11102 |              |            |
| Diabetic     | Baseline    | USF  | .2535              | .04380 | 4.704        | 0.000(H.S) |
|              |             | SSF  | .3220              | .04819 |              |            |
|              | Immediately | USF  | .4340              | .08426 | 8.980        | 0.000(H.S) |
|              |             | SSF  | .7735              | .14658 |              |            |
|              | 2 months    | USF  | .5220              | .06429 | 4.997        | 0.000(H.S) |
|              |             | SSF  | .6490              | .09375 |              |            |

**Table 3** Descriptive statistical comparison among unstimulated and among stimulated mean salivary flow rate at at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion in both non-diabetic and diabetic patients.

|                  |              | Mean   | Standard deviation | F       | Significance |
|------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|---------|--------------|
| Non diabetic     | Baseline     | .4140  | .08702             | 41.756  | 0.000(H.S)   |
|                  | Immediately  | .8310  | .21076             |         |              |
|                  | USF 2 months | .6290  | .10244             |         |              |
| Non diabetic SSF | Baseline     | .5965  | .16122             | 43.655  | 0.000(H.S)   |
|                  | Immediately  | 1.2140 | .32954             |         |              |
|                  | 2 months     | .7190  | .11102             |         |              |
| Diabetic         | Baseline     | .2535  | .04380             | 85.486  | 0.000(H.S)   |
|                  | Immediately  | .4340  | .08426             |         |              |
|                  | 2 months     | .5220  | .06429             |         |              |
| Diabetic SSF     | Baseline     | .3220  | .04819             | 100.094 | 0.000(H.S)   |
|                  | Immediately  | .7735  | .14658             |         |              |
|                  | 2 months     | .6490  | .09375             |         |              |



**Graph 1** Comparison of unstimulated salivary flow rate between non-diabetic and diabetic participants and stimulated salivary flow rate between non-diabetic and diabetic participants at baseline (before denture insertion), immediately and 2 months after denture insertion



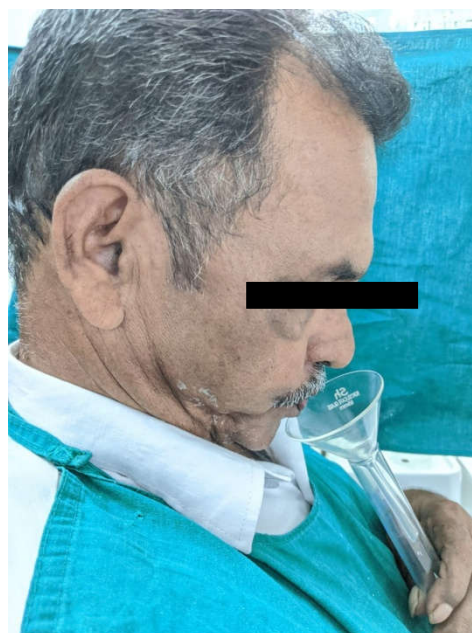
**Figure 1** Glass beaker with distilled water



**Figure 2** Graduated measuring jar



**Figure 3** Glass funnel



**Figure 4** Method of collection of saliva sample

### **Discussion**

Salivary function is critical for the maintenance of oral and systemic health.<sup>1</sup> It plays important role in digestion, mastication, taste, speech and protection of oral hard and soft tissue.<sup>6</sup> Hence, any condition that disturbs saliva production or its composition will probably have broad negative sequelae in the mouth and may result in systemic complications.<sup>7</sup> Patients suffering from dry mouth experience difficulty with eating, swallowing, speech, retention of dentures, taste alteration, oral hygiene, trauma and ulceration of the oral mucosa, a burning sensation of the mucosa, candidal infections.<sup>1</sup> In diabetic patients there is decrease in salivary secretion and xerostomia or dry mouth can be associated symptoms.<sup>6</sup>

Salivary flow is termed resting (unstimulated) when no exogenous or pharmacological stimulation is present and is termed (stimulated) when secretion is promoted by mechanical or gustatory stimuli or by pharmacological agents.<sup>1</sup> Since several factors can influence salivary secretion and composition, a precise standard for saliva collection must be established.<sup>8</sup> The spitting method appeared to be the most reproducible.<sup>9,10</sup> Hence, in the present study, spitting method for collection of whole saliva was used and mechanical method was used to stimulate whole saliva.

The results of the present study showed that an increase in mean unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rate before complete denture placement to that of immediately after complete denture placement in both non-diabetic and diabetic patients. Also, mean stimulated salivary flow rate values were significantly higher than mean unstimulated salivary flow rate values. This could be due to the stimulation of the mucous glands in the posterior third of the palate because of denture

coverage, causing increase in salivary secretion.<sup>11</sup> Also, the dentures themselves act as mechanical stimulants which causes increase in salivary flow rate in both diabetic and non-diabetic patients.<sup>1</sup>

Yurdukoru *et al* evaluated assessment of whole saliva flow rate in denture wearing patients and concluded that unstimulated whole salivary flow rate immediately after denture insertion was 1.5 to 2 times higher compared to the preinsertion values.<sup>9</sup> This study also indicates that there was a significant decrease in the flow rate when compared between immediately after denture insertion and 2 months after denture insertion. The probable reason could be the fact that the salivary glands need to accommodate to the presence of new dentures, and the production of saliva would eventually return to normal following salivary gland adaptation. Eventual atrophy of the gland with contractual fatigue would then reduce the mucous secretion to an acceptable level.<sup>12</sup>

Furthermore, the values for unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rate after 2 months of denture insertion remained significantly higher when compared with the baseline values obtained before the complete denture placement, in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants. Also, mean stimulated salivary flow rate values were significantly higher than mean unstimulated salivary flow rate values. This suggests the importance of stimulation. Also, the dentures themselves act as mechanical stimulants which causes increase in salivary flow rate in both diabetic and non-diabetic patients.<sup>1</sup>

Sreebny LM *et al* has studied drug-induced xerostomia in elderly individuals and concluded that the salivary flow rates of diabetic patients were consistently lower than non-diabetic persons.<sup>13</sup>

Vaziri *et al* evaluated salivary glucose, IgA and flow rate in diabetic patients and concluded that no significant differences were found in salivary IgA and glucose concentrations in diabetic patients and control subjects but significantly, lower salivary flow rate values were observed in diabetic patients when compared to the controls.<sup>4</sup>

In the present study, mean unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rate values before denture insertion, immediately after denture insertion and 2 months after denture insertion were significantly higher in non-diabetic participants than in diabetic participants. This could be explained by the fact that the change in salivary flow in diabetic patients is caused by multiple factors like the changes in the parenchyma of the salivary gland, glycosuria caused by mild hyperglycemia, and diabetes complications such as neuropathy, angiopathy and metabolic dyscontrol, decreasing the activity of the enzymes located in the salivary glands and hence affecting its function.<sup>3</sup>

#### ***This study had some limitations such as***

1. Time of collection was not specific.
2. Sample size was small. A larger sample size could give statistically significant results.
3. It is practically difficult to obtain true unstimulated saliva because flow is always influenced by some kind of stimulation.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Within the limitations of this study, following conclusions were made

- Stimulated whole salivary flow rates were significantly higher than the unstimulated whole salivary flow rates obtained before, immediately after, and after 2 months

of complete denture placement in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants.

- It was found that there were significant differences in unstimulated whole salivary flow rates obtained before, immediately after, and after 2 months of complete denture placement in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants.
- There were also significant differences in stimulated whole salivary flow rates obtained before, immediately after, and after 2 months of complete denture placement in both non-diabetic and diabetic participants.
- It was also found that both unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rates were significantly higher after 2 months of complete denture placement compared to baseline that is before denture placement in non-diabetic and diabetic participants.
- This study also showed that unstimulated and stimulated salivary flow rates were significantly higher in non-diabetic participants than in diabetic participants, before, immediately after, and after 2 months of complete denture placement.

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**How to cite this article:**

Dr.Khot Kalyani Jalindar *et al* (2020) 'A Clinical Study to Compare Between Unstimulated and Stimulated Whole Salivary Flow Rate Before and After Complete Denture Placement in Diabetic and Non Diabetic Patients', *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, 09(03), pp. 21534-21539. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijcar.2020.21539.4235>

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