

# Prevalence of different types of bleaching techniques used for management of discolored tooth/teeth.

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## Abstract

**Aim:** To see prevalence of different types of bleaching techniques used for management of discolored tooth/teeth.

**Methods:** A total of 68 patients who underwent bleaching from October 2020 to March 2021 have been included in this study. Data was collected from dental college patient management software, it was tabulated in excel and then imported to SPSS software for statistical analysis and chi-square test was done to check for statistical significance.

**Results:** It was seen that there was no significant difference between the age and the type of bleaching technique used, between gender and type of bleaching technique used.

**Conclusion:** Within the limitations of the study we can conclude that there is statistical association between types of bleaching technique used, reason for doing bleaching and age, gender of patients.

**Keywords:** Vital-bleaching, Non-vital bleaching, Innovative technique, Discolouration, Fluorosis.

## Introduction

Tooth discoloration is highly aesthetically non appealing and the dentists and the patients expend considerable amounts of time and money in attempts to improve the appearance of discolored teeth. The different methods to manage discolored teeth range from: Surface stain removal; Bleaching or tooth whitening techniques; Operative techniques which can camouflage the underlying tooth discoloration, such as composite or ceramic veneers and crowns. There are different types of bleaching techniques and have attracted much interest from the aesthetic dentists, as they are noninvasive and relatively simple to carry out. Conventional bleaching systems are based primarily on hydrogen peroxide or one of its precursors, notably carbamide peroxide, and these are often used in combination with an activating agent such as heat or light. There are two types of bleaching techniques - Bleaching techniques where bleaching agents are applied externally to the teeth surface (vital bleaching), or inside the teeth within the pulp chamber (non-vital bleaching) [1,2].

Both these bleaching techniques aim to bleach the chromogens within the dentin, thereby bringing about a change in overall colour of the tooth. A variety of case reports and clinical studies have shown that night guard vital bleaching technique, where 10% carbamide peroxide gel is applied to the tooth surface in a bleaching tray at night through a 10% carbamide peroxide gel used in a bleaching tray at night, produces predictable results [1,3–10], same as hydrogen peroxide strips [11]. Another study which showed effective results from ‘power

bleaching technique’ which used 35% hydrogen peroxide [1,12]. The exact mechanism which involves the bleaching is not fully understood but is hypothesized to involve the influx of oxygenating molecules via enamel micro pores along a diffusion gradient followed by direct access to dentin. These break down the double bonds in between the pigment molecules thereby making it smaller in size which diffuses outside the tooth or to those that absorb less light and hence appear lighter. Hydrogen peroxide forms a weak bond with urea to produce carbamide peroxide which is easily dissociated in the presence of water to release free radicals that penetrate through the enamel and into the dentin to produce the bleaching effect. The breakdown of hydrogen peroxide into free radicals that penetrate through the tooth surface occurs either by photo dissociation, anionic dissociation or a combination of the both [1].

Our team has extensive knowledge and research experience that has translate into high quality publications [13-32]. In this present retrospective study we checked for the prevalence of different types of bleaching techniques used for the management of discoloured tooth/teeth.

## Materials and Method

### Study design

A retrospective study.

### Study setting

Case records of patients in a private dental institution in Chennai.

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### Inclusion and exclusion criteria

All the patients who underwent bleaching for their tooth/teeth discolouration from March, 2020 to March, 2021 were included in this study. Patients with incompletely filled case sheets and who were not willing for bleaching for their discoloured tooth/teeth were excluded from analysis.

### Ethical approval

The approval for this study was given by the ethical board of Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences

### Statistical analysis

Saveetha dental college and hospital manages its patients' data using the dental information archival system (DIAS). Data was extracted, and treatments were categorized for each patient based on the type of bleaching technique used and entered into an excel sheet; and data was randomly checked at regular intervals for accuracy to verify veracity and avoid errors. Data was analyzed using SPSS V28 (IBM, IL, CH) and the type of bleaching technique used. The level of statistical significance was set at 0.005%.

### Results and Discussion

This retrospective study was designed in order to check for the prevalence of different types of bleaching techniques used for management of discoloured tooth/teeth. In our study, we found that there was no statistical association between type of

bleaching technique used, reason for doing bleaching and age, gender of the patients. The results of this study indicated that all bleaching techniques were unique for each case and there is no significant statistical association between age and gender. Similar findings reported by other studies [33]. A similar result was observed when analyzing both data sets for participants older than 40 years of age [34]. It has been reported that every one-year increase in the participant's age reduced the degree of whitening by 7% [35]. Younger individuals have less chromatic teeth and the majority of stains are extrinsic in nature which can be easily oxidized by bleaching agents. The older age group who received home bleaching did not maintain a lighter tooth colour (Figures 1-4).

### Conclusion

Within the limitations of this study, we can conclude that there is no significant statistical association between type of bleaching technique, reason for doing bleaching and age, gender of the patients.

### Conflict of Interest

None to declare.

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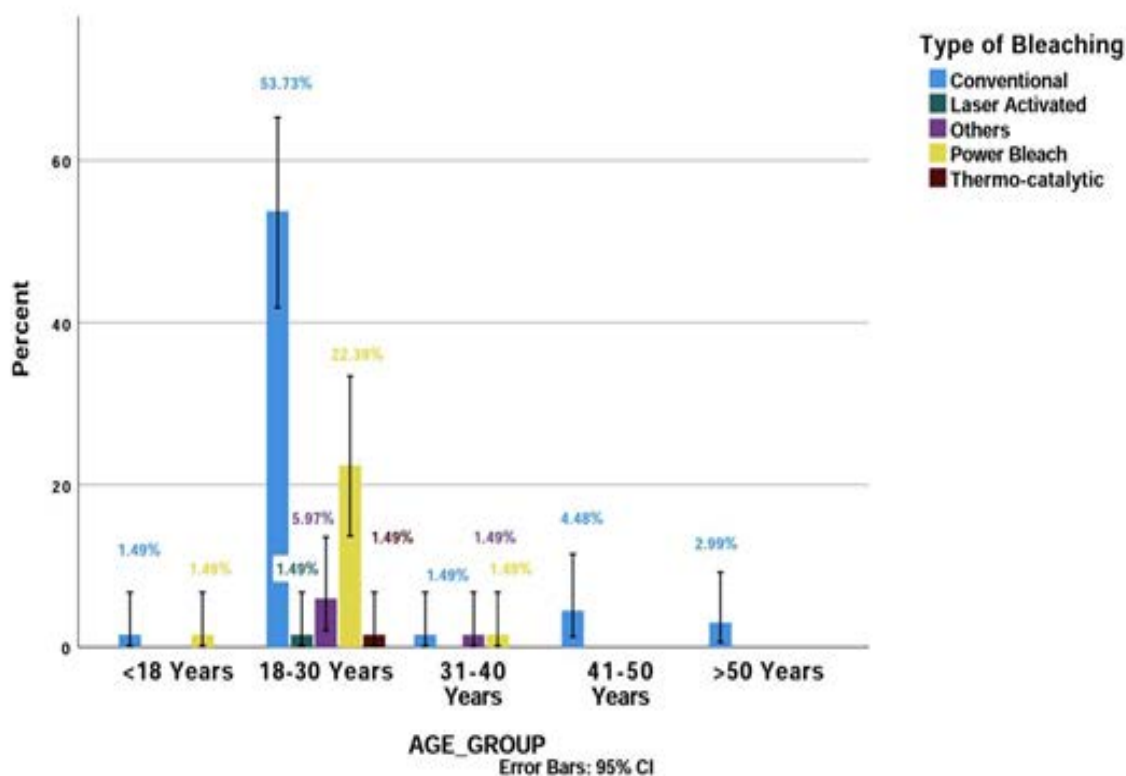
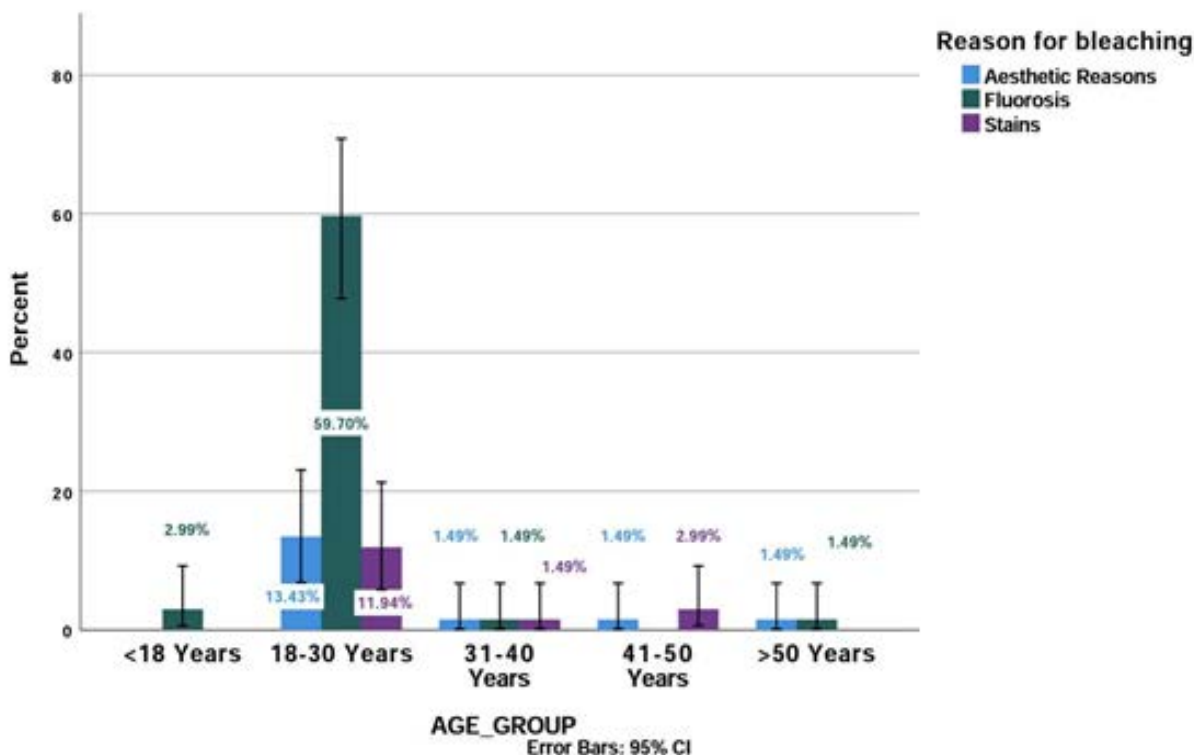
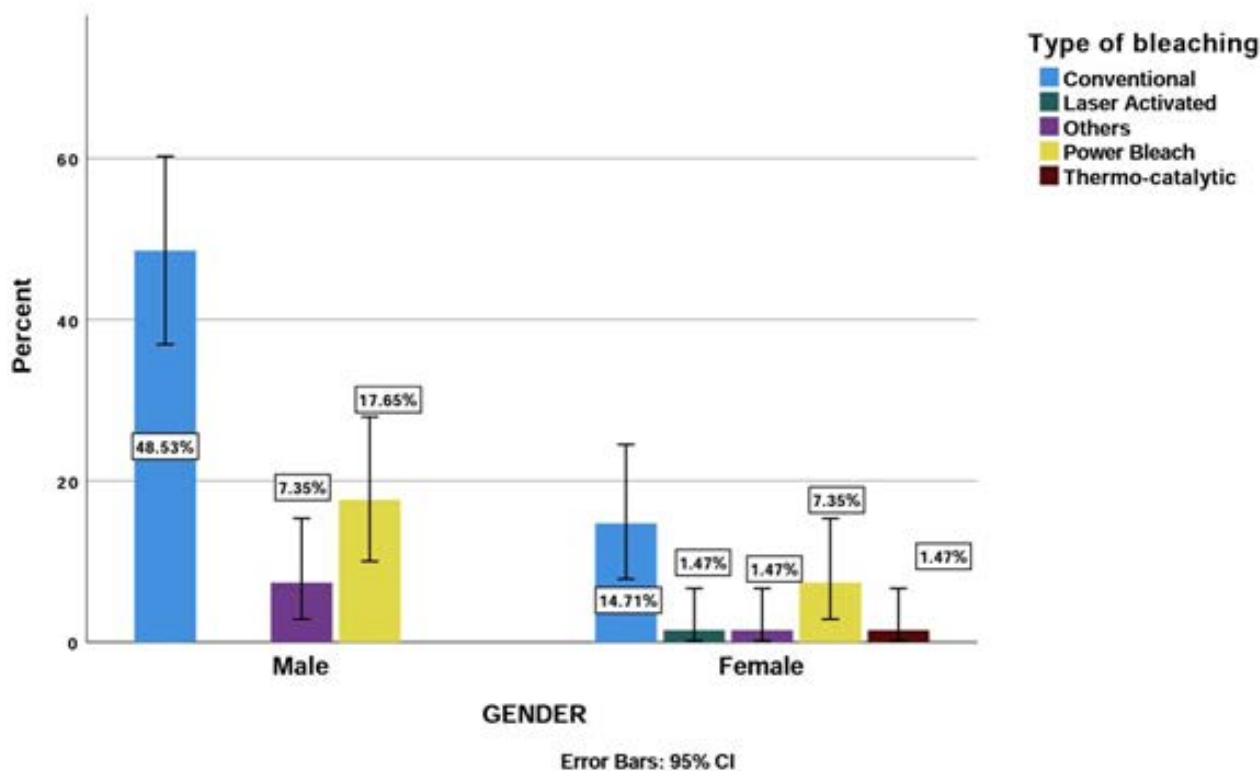


Figure 1. Bar graph showing association between different types of bleaching techniques done among various age groups. X-axis represents the different age groups and Y-axis represents the type of bleaching technique used, where blue denotes conventional, green denotes laser activated, purple denotes power bleach and brown denotes thermo-catalytic type of bleaching. There was no statistical association between age and type of bleaching used ( $p=0.654$ ).

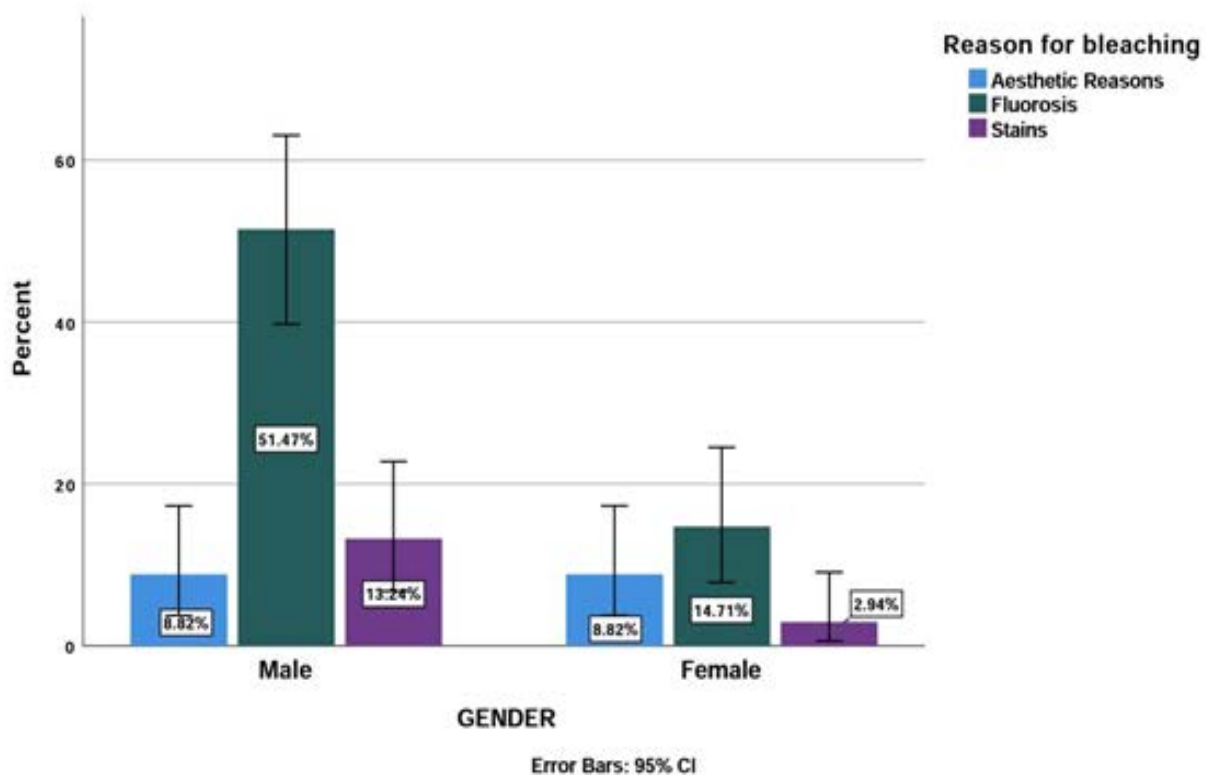
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**Figure 2.** Bar graph showing association between reasons for bleaching done among various age groups. X-axis represents the different age groups and Y-axis represents the reasons for bleaching, where blue denotes for aesthetic reasons, green denotes fluorosis and purple denotes stains. There was no statistical association between age and reason for doing bleaching ( $p=0.277$ ).



**Figure 3.** Bar graph showing association between different types of bleaching techniques done among gender. X-axis represents gender and Y-axis represents the type of bleaching technique used, where blue denotes conventional, green denotes laser activated, purple denotes power bleach and brown denotes thermo-catalytic type of bleaching. There was no statistical association between gender and type of bleaching used ( $p=0.188$ ).



**Figure 4.** Bar graph showing association between reasons for bleaching done among gender. X-axis represents the gender and Y-axis represents the reasons for bleaching, where blue denotes for aesthetic reasons, green denotes fluorosis and purple denotes stains. There was no statistical association between gender and reason for doing bleaching ( $p=0.121$ ).

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