

**Table 4 Characteristics of the interactions between dentists and dental supply representatives**

<b>Characteristics</b>	
<b>Frequency of interaction</b>	
≤ 1/month	327 (74.8%)
2 or 3 times/month	47 (10.8%)
Once weekly	27 (6.2%)
2–5 times/week	24 (5.5%)
Nearly every day	12 (2.7%)
<b>Place of interaction</b>	
Clinic	169 (39.0%)
During hours	140 (32.3%)
After hours	29 (6.7%)
Office	66 (15.2%)
<b>Place of interaction</b>	
Conference/symposium	168 (38.8%)
Others	30 (6.9%)
<b>Duration of interactions (min)</b>	
< 5	40 (9.8%)
5–9	155 (38.0%)
10–14	148 (36.3%)
15–30	40 (9.8%)
> 30	25 (6.1%)
<b>Communication methods</b>	
Telephone	128 (45.2%)
Face-to-face	77 (27.2%)
E-mail	58 (20.5%)
More than one method	20 (7.1%)
<b>Gift offer</b>	
No	67 (15.9%)
Yes	354 (84.1%)
<b>Gift acceptance</b>	
Never	33 (9.3%)
Rarely	53 (15.0%)
Sometimes	71 (20.1%)
Often	102 (28.8%)
Almost always	95 (26.8%)
<b>Reasons for accepting gift offers</b>	
Helps me to remember their products	117 (37.9%)
Human nature to accept gifts	61 (19.7%)
Minor gifts are always welcomed	59 (19.1%)
Do not want to say no	49 (15.9%)
Gifts are present in every profession, not only in dentistry	12 (3.9%)
My colleagues are accepting gifts	7 (2.3%)
Salaries of dentists are inadequate	4 (1.3%)
<b>Type of gift</b>	
Free instruments samples	162 (54.7%)
Attend industry-sponsored CME events	45 (15.2%)
Attend non-industry-sponsored CME events	12 (4.1%)
Stationary such as pens or note pads	32 (10.8%)
Funded research	21 (7.1%)
Free meals	20 (6.8%)
Prepaid promotion cards/codes	4 (1.4%)
<b>Gifts with company's name or logo</b>	
Yes	256 (80.8%)
No	32 (10.1%)
Don't know	29 (9.1%)
<b>Reasons for prescribing a dental material</b>	
To benefit patients with economic incapability	87 (31.3%)
Due to availability of these samples	101 (36.3%)
According to the patients convenience	32 (11.5%)
The sample is more effective	58 (20.9%)

CME = continuing medical education; DSR = dental supply representative.