

# INVESTIGATION OF DENTAL MAIN COMPLAIN IN A RANDOM SAMPLE OF PATIENTS VISITING PRIVATE CLINIC IN RAMADI CITY-ANBAR PROVINCE-IRAQ

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## **Abstract**

Main complain of dental problems is a good indication for the most prevailed oral problems. In this paper an attempt has been made to identify the prevailed dental problem and to cast light on the parameters that well associated with it. Gingivitis was found the most common complain in this sample and it was found to be significantly associated with education level. Bad education can be considered as the most reason lead to such a problem. Rural style of living is also found to be significantly affected the incidence of oral diseases in this sample.

## **Introduction**

Dental hygiene is a very essential health issue in present modern life where the rhythm of life impose certain food and eating style. The term of Public Dental Health has been defined as "The science and art of preventing and controlling dental disease and promoting dental health through community effort"<sup>1</sup>. The unique characteristic of dental diseases is that they are universally prevalent and do not undergo remission or termination if untreated and require technically demanding expertise and time consuming professional treatment. It was proved that if deciduous teeth are retained beyond time of exfoliation, they are known to cause delay in eruption of permanent teeth and thus lead to malocclusion and other orthodontic problems, which will then need expensive corrective treatment<sup>2</sup>. More than 400 species of bacteria live in human mouth and hence serious gum infection can release bacteria in the blood stream and can worsen the condition of patient suffering from heart disease, stroke and other similar ailments<sup>3</sup>. It is also known that periodontal diseases can even cause premature labour by release of prostaglandins by periodontal bacteria and also worsen conditions like diabetes and pneumonia.

Age may also plays a very important role in the future prospect of individuals regarding their teeth conditions<sup>4</sup>.

## **Patients and methods**

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2009 a sample of 861 patients was randomly considered from admissions of dental private clinic. The main concern was to identify the main complain of the patients. A simple questionnaire was designed to handle few information (type of complain, age, gender, residential area, occupation and education level) that believed to be associated with the main complain. The questionnaire was filled by the aid of the dentists after clinical observation of the patient. The main types of complain were reduced to the following: Extraction, Gingivitis, Filling, Caries, Partial and complete denture problems, and others.

Statistical methods such as two-sample t-test, one-way analysis of variance and Chi-square test were used in order to give a scientific approach for the data investigation.

## **Results and discussion**

The considered sample contained 371 males (43.09%) and 490 females (56.91%). The Chi-square test shows no significant difference between the two percentages with respect to the main type of complain. This result is in agreement with that found by Cand. Odont., 1982<sup>5</sup>.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of main dental complains according to the counts of complain found by the considered sample. It is very clear from this figure that gingivitis was the most common main complain for this sample. These findings are in agreement with that of other studies<sup>6-8</sup>.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of cases with respect to the education levels. Most of the cases were found to come from secondary level of education which reflect a limited knowledge background.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of cases with respect to the occupation. Most of the cases were found to come from rural areas since they are farmers. Of course its an indication for a special hazardous life style which contained bad habits of both food and health care.

The mean age of the total sample was found to be 36.04 years with standard deviation of 14.28 years. The two-sample t-test revealed that there is no significant difference between males mean age (35.4 years) and females mean age (36.5 years) (p-value>0.05).

The distribution of age with respect to the main complain is shown on table 1.

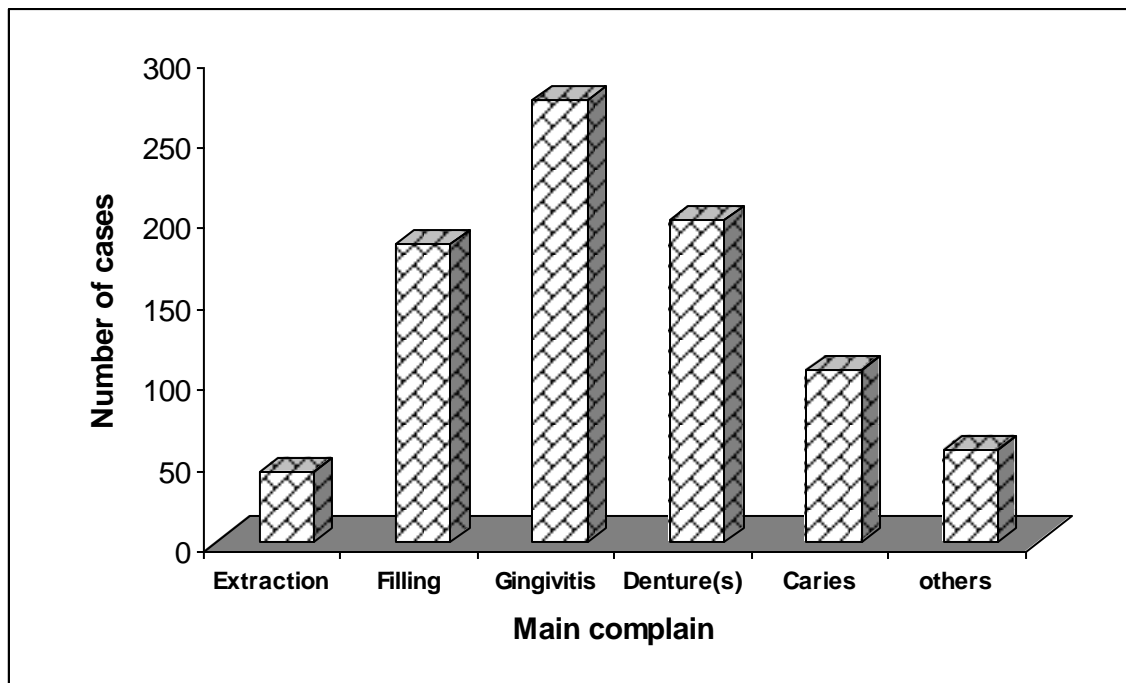


Fig.1. Distribution of cases with respect to the main complain.

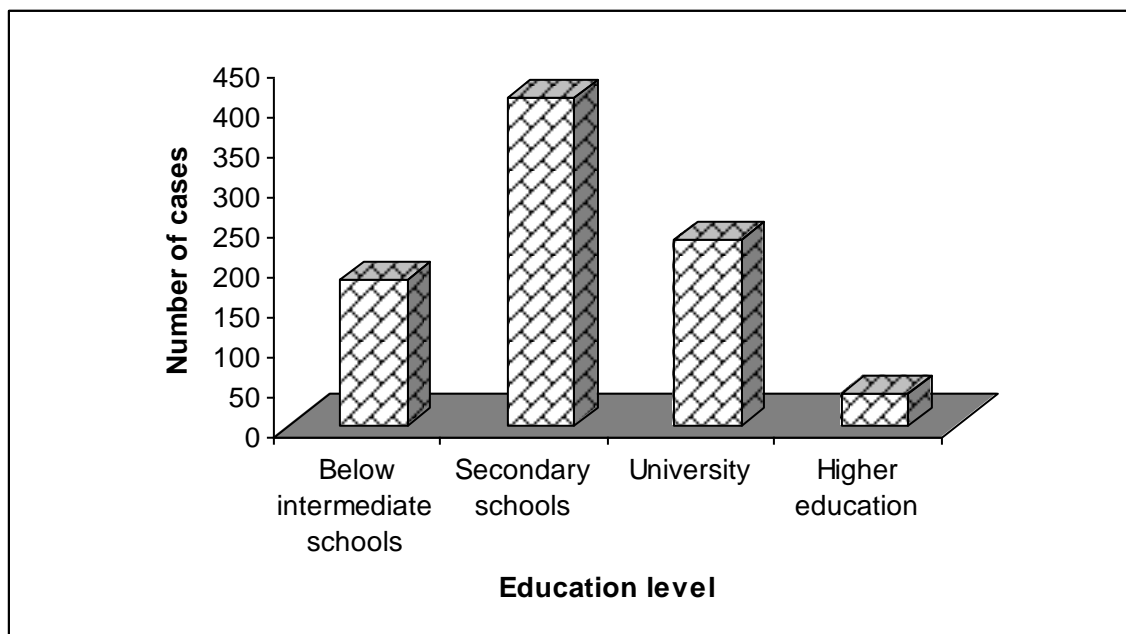


Fig.2. Distribution of cases with respect to the education level.

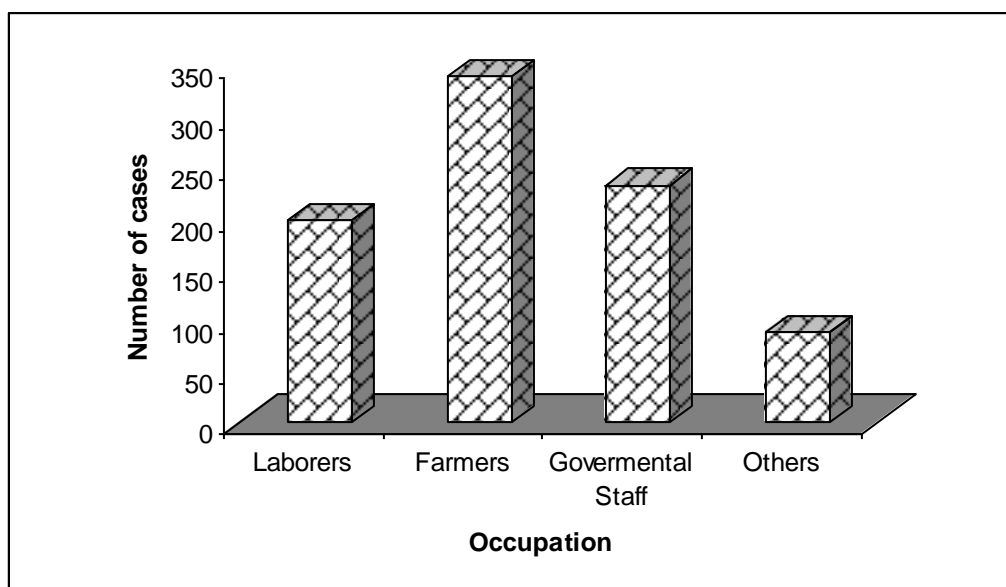


Fig.3. Distribution of cases with respect to the occupation.

Table 1. The age distribution of sample individuals with respect to the main complain.

<b>Types of Dental problem</b>	<b>Mean±S.d.</b>
<b>Extraction</b>	<b>31.4±4.9</b>
<b>Filling</b>	<b>35.1±6.2</b>
<b>Gingivitis</b>	<b>27.3±9.2</b>
<b>Denture(s)</b>	<b>56.4±5.7</b>
<b>Caries</b>	<b>21.2±4.3</b>
<b>others</b>	<b>37.6±8.7</b>

The one-way analysis of variance for the mean ages with respect to the main complain was carried out and the result showed high significant difference ( $p\text{-value} < 0.01$ ) between mean ages according to the groups of main complain (Figure 4).

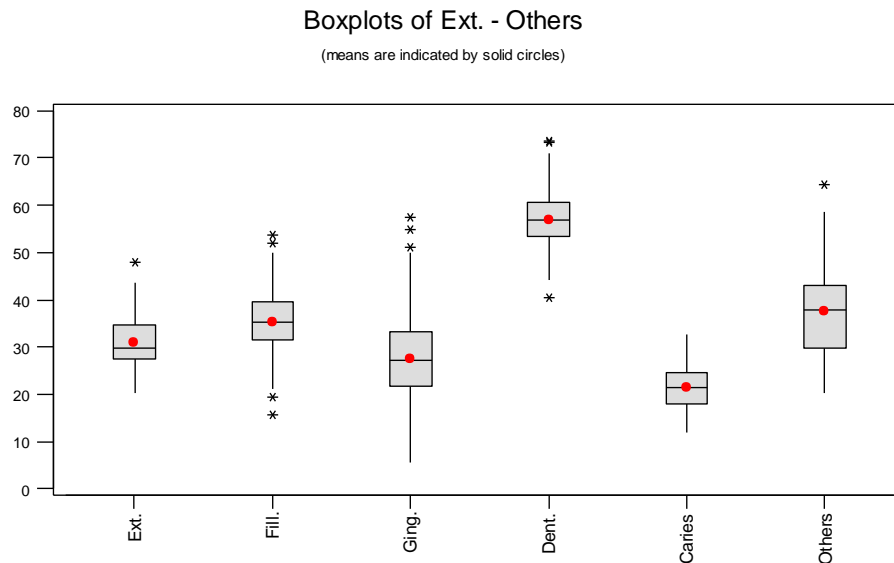


Fig. 4. Boxplot of mean ages with respect to the main complains.

Means age of sample individuals were compared once again with respect to the residential area. The two-way t-test revealed that there is no significant difference between mean ages of urban individuals (35.8 years) and rural mean ages (36.1 years).

The number of people from rural areas was found to be 596 (69.22%), whereas the number of people from urban areas was found to be (30.78%). The two-way t-test shows a significant difference between the two percentages ( $p\text{-value} < 0.01$ ). this result means that people from rural areas are more exposed to the risk of dental problems than people from urban areas. Such a result maybe interpreted in terms of life style in rural areas that include bat food habits and less care about oral health.

Table 2 shows the cross classification of the types of dental problems with respect to the occupation. The Chi-square test shows no significant association between categories of occupation with those of dental problems ( $p > 0.05$ ). this result emphasizes the fact that occupation has nothing to do with oral heal health in this research.

Table 3 shows the cross classification of categories of education levels with types of dental problems. The result of the Chi-square test indicated that the last two columns of the education level (University and Higher education) can be collapsed in one column as shown on table 3.1. the Chi-

square test has been carried out for the data in table 3.1 and shows that the association between education levels and types of dental problems is significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Table 2. distribution of sample individuals with respect to the types of dental problem and occupations.

Types of Dental problem	Occupation				Total
	Laborers	Farmers	Governmental staff	others	
Extraction	8	25	7	3	43
Filling	33	80	50	21	184
Gingivitis	61	101	78	33	273
Denture(s)	57	69	57	16	199
Caries	26	42	28	10	106
others	14	23	13	6	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>861</b>

Table 3. distribution of sample individuals with respect to the types of dental problem and education levels.

Types of Dental problem	Education level				Total
	Below intermediate schools	Secondary schools	University	Higher education	
Extraction	8	27	8	0	43
Filling	33	94	51	6	184
Gingivitis	60	120	79	14	273
Denture(s)	47	100	43	9	199
Caries	18	41	38	9	106
others	15	27	13	1	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>861</b>

Table 3.1 distribution of sample individuals with respect to the types of dental problem and altered education levels.

Types of Dental problem	Below intermediate schools	Secondary schools	Universities & higher education	Total
Extraction	8	27	8	43
Filling	33	94	57	184
Gingivitis	60	120	93	273
Denture(s)	47	100	52	199
Caries	18	41	47	106
others	15	27	14	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>861</b>

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بحث الشكاوى الرئيسية لإمراض الاسنان في عينة عشوائية من المرضى المراجعين للعيادات الخاصة لطب الاسنان في مدينة الرمادي بمحافظة الانبار العراقية

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## الملخص

تعتبر الشكاوى الرئيسية لمشاكل طب الاسنان مؤشرا جيدا لمعظم المشاكل الفموية الواسعة الانتشار. في هذا البحث جرت محاولة الوقوف على تأشير مشاكل الامراض الفموية المنتشرة من اجل تسليط الضوء على المعالم المرافقة لها. لقد وجد ان التهاب اللثة هو اكثر الامراض الفموية انتشارا في هذه العينة كما وجد بانه يترافق معنويا مع المستوى التعليمي. ان الامية و تدني المستوى التعليمي يمكن ان تعتبر من الاسباب الرئيسية الشائعة التي تقود للإصابة بهذا المرض. لقد اظهرت الدراسة بان اسلوب الحياة الريفي يؤثر بشكل معنوي على ازدياد اعداد المصابين بهذا النوع من الامراض الفموية.