

Prevalence OF DENTAL CARIES IN 15 YEARS OLD STUDENTS IN AL-NAJAF city

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ملخص بحث

نسبة انتشار تسوس الأسنان عند 15 سنة عمراً لطلاب محافظة النجف الاشرف لتحديد نسبة انتشار تسوس الأسنان في طلاب ذوي أعمار 15 سنة في مدارس النجف الاشرف , (504) طالب من كلا الجنسين في مدينة النجف. ثم فحصهم استناداً إلى وسائل منظمة الصحة العالمية. النتائج أظهرت نسب انتشار تسوس الأسنان عند الذكور في المدن فكانت نسبة التسوس 43.1% وكانت نسبة الخاليين من التسوس 56.9% , بينما عند الإناث كانت نسبة التسوس 38.3% و خاليين من التسوس 61,7% واستناداً إلى وسائل منظمة الصحة العالمية أن نسبة التسوس عند الذكور والإناث منخفضة في المدن. نوصي باعتماد برنامج تثقيفي, وقلني, علاجي في المدارس .

Abstract

This survey was conducted on school students in Al-Najaf city. The aim was to detect the prevalence of dental caries at 15 years old students in Al-Najaf schools. A Random sample (504) students of both genders from urban was taken and examined according to the (WHO) survey methods. The results revealed the prevalence of dental caries in male urban, the caries rate was 43.1% and caries free is 56.9% while the caries rate in females is 38.3% and caries free is 61.7%. According to the (WHO) criteria the caries rate for male and female is low .Educational, preventive and therapeutic school dental programs are recommended.

Introduction

Dental caries, one of the most common disorders of mankind, starts at an early age, affecting children and young adults but can occur at any age. Caries affects all populations and population subgroups, from the highly industrialized to the least developed countries with regional variations .Caries is multifactorial in nature, with various risk factors contributing to its occurrence, including age, sex and socio-economic status.(1)

Oral health surveys help to detect the populations oral health status and treatment needs, providing baseline information which help health planners and administrators to establish their oral health plans on the actual need of their populations.(2)

Fifteen years, at this age the permanent teeth have been exposed to the oral environment for 3-9 years. The assessment of caries prevalence is therefore often more meaningful than at 12 years of age (2-4).

The present study was done to highlight the intensity of dental caries in 15 year students in AL-NAJAF schools, and it is the first study in AL –NAJAF governorate.

Aim of the Study

The aim of the present investigation is to study the prevalence of dental caries at 15 years of age in the An-Najaf governorate, and to put a baseline for further studies, and treatment needs.

Material and Methods

Since in comparing dental caries prevalence it is necessary to focus on similar age groups, thus (504) students 204 males and 300 females of 15 years old from An-Najaf schools Concerning gender were examined to determine the dental caries in the permanent teeth.

The criteria used for diagnosing caries were according to the World Health Organization(WHO,1997).The examination were carried out in classrooms and performed under florescent lighting with the patient sitting on a normal chair.

Disposable mirrors and probes were used to record: decayed, missing and filled teeth (DMFT) and surfaces (DMFS) in permanent dentition. Occlusal, vestibulare, lingual, mesial and distal surfaces were all examined in each tooth.

After the approval of the authorities, schools were randomly chosen from urban area. The name, the age, gender, and birthday were recorded for the comparison.

The data collection took a period of one month.

Result:

The results as seen in table (1) indicate that there are no significant differences in the dental caries among the gender $p=0.28$.

The prevalence of dental caries in the permanent teeth among the students of age 15 years old is low because the caries free teeth are more than 20% according to (WHO) criteria.

The (WHO) criteria stated that when the caries free teeth are more than 20%, the prevalence is low, if 5-20% are caries free, the prevalence is moderate, and if fewer than 5% are caries free, the prevalence is high.

Table 1 shows the distribution by age, gender.

Table: (1) Distribution of dental caries among students of 15 years age in An- Najaf by Gender.

Gender	Residence	Caries free		Permanent Caries	
		No	%	No	%
Male N=204	Urban	116	56.9	88	43.1
Female N=300	Urban	185	61.7	115	38.3

$$X^2=1.165$$

$$P =0.28$$
$$Df=1$$

Discussion

The present study investigated the prevalence of dental caries in 15 age group in Al-NAJAF school population. The results revealed a low caries experience according to the (WHO) criteria even most of the students are negligent and with out dental care. The explanation is most probably related to the types of food ingested which are mainly fibrous in nature.

This is the first study carried out in the Al-Najaf governorate for such age group, so that no previous study exist to compare the results.

These results are not in agreement with the prevalence of dental caries in 15 year –old in JEDDAH city in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which is moderate(DMFT=4,31) (6).

Also these results are not in agreement with the prevalence of dental caries in Syria of the same age which showed the caries prevalence was moderate.

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