

Comparison of Periodontal Health Status and Treatment Needs Between the Arab and the Kurd in Northern Iraq

A Thesis

**Submitted to The College of Dentistry,
University of Baghdad**

*In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science*

*In
Periodontics*

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ABSTRACT

A periodontal health survey, using WHO methodology (1997), was conducted among 1082 Arab subjects and 1113 Kurd subjects, living in different rural and urban areas in the north of Iraq, aged 15-54 years, the Arab sample composed of 598 males and 484 females, while the Kurd sample composed of 585 males and 528 females, As the first comparative study between these two ethnic groups done in Iraq.

The purposes of this study were to determine and compare the prevalence and the severity of periodontal diseases, and the treatment needs between the Arab and the Kurd, and to correlate the periodontal health status with age and gender in both races.

By using WHO periodontal probes, the Community Periodontal Index (CPI), the Treatment Needs (TN) and the Loss of Attachment (LA) were measured for each subject in each ethnic group. The number of lost permanent teeth was also recorded.

In Both ethnic groups, Males were found to have worse periodontal conditions than Females. Also a significant age difference was present. All subjects of both races had experienced periodontal disease where 24.34%, 38.65%, 13.46%, 1.04% of the Arab and 22.13%, 38.97%, 17.27%, 1.35% of the Kurd had gingival bleeding, calculus, shallow pocket of 4-5 mm and deep pocket of 6 mm or more, respectively.

In general, the prevalence of gingivitis and calculus was higher in the Arab, while the prevalence of periodontitis (shallow and deep pocket) was higher in the Kurd.

This study has demonstrated that the Loss of Attachment increased significantly with increasing age in both ethnic groups. Where 86.78% of the Arab and 86.72% of the Kurd had normal level periodontal Attachment, while 8.05% of the Arab and 8.78% of the Kurd had

different amount of Attachment loss. These results illustrate that the prevalence of LA is small in both races

In both ethnic groups, there were a percentage of subjects with TN0, TN1, TN2, but very small percentage need's TN3.

The mean number of lost permanent teeth was low in both races, increased with age, it was higher in the Arab (3.34) than in the Kurd (3.169), with no difference between gender in the Arab, but higher in male in the Kurd.

The results indicated that although there were similarities in some respects between the two races, there were some differences in other details.