

*ORAL HEALTH STATUS AND  
SALIVARY  
MUTANS STREPTOCOCCI  
IN SMOKERS AND NON-  
SMOKERS*

*A Thesis*

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# Abstract

Possible dissimilarities between smokers and non-smokers regarding oral hygiene, gingival status and dental caries experience were studied in a sample of 81 unmedicated healthy dental student (41 students were smokers, 40 were non-smokers, aged 22 – 24 years).

Clinical parameters in term of gingival index, plaque index, calculus index, stain index as well as Decayed, Missing and Filled surface index were assessed. Microbiological analysis included the salivary counts of mutans streptococci and the flow rate and pH of stimulated whole saliva were measured.

The results of the present study showed that smokers had significantly higher plaque, gingival, calculus and stain scores ( $P < 0.001$ ) than non-smokers.

The mean Decayed Missing and Filled surface for smokers were found to be higher than that of non-smokers ( $P < 0.001$ ) as well as the count of salivary mutans streptococci. The positive correlation of salivary mutans streptococci count was stronger with Decayed surfaces than with Decayed, Missing and Filled surfaces in both groups. No statistically significant difference was found between the two groups concerning salivary flow rate ( $P > 0.05$ ), while smokers had significantly lower pH of stimulated whole saliva than non-smokers ( $P < 0.05$ ).