

Oral Health Status and Treatment Needs among Fifteen Years-old Students in Maysan Governorate/Iraq

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Abstract

Background: Although dental caries followed by periodontal disease are not life threatening, considered as the most common and widely spread human's diseases especially in developing countries in addition to enamel anomalies.

Aims of the study: The survey aimed to investigate the prevalence and severity of dental caries, gingivitis and enamel anomalies in relation to residency and gender. Furthermore, to assess oral hygiene (dental plaque and calculus) and dental treatment needs among 15 years old students in Maysan Governorate, Iraq.

Materials and Methods: This survey was conducted among intermediate and secondary schools, the total sample composed of 750 (400 males and 350 females) was selected randomly from different urban and rural schools in Maysan governorate. Diagnosis and recording of dental caries and treatment needs were assessed according to the criteria described by WHO (1987). Plaque index of Silness and Loe (1964) was used for plaque assessment, Ramfjord index (1959) was applied for the assessment of calculus, gingival index of Loe and Silness (1963) was followed for recording gingival health condition.

Results: Results showed that the prevalence of dental caries was 92.5% for the total sample. The mean DMFT was (7.64 ± 0.15) and DMFS was (12.14 ± 0.28). Significant differences were seen between the variables studied in this survey as DMFT, DMFS, PII, GI except that of CaII in which there was no significant difference. Females were more affected by dental caries than males and higher prevalence in rural than urban. One surface filling treatment need was the highest (88%) followed by two or

more surfaces filling (69%) then pulp care and restoration (10.5%) and other care (8.5%) of total sample.

The mean of plaque index was (1.03±0.01), calculus index (0.03±0.01) and gingival index (0.88±0.01). Gingivitis had percentage of (98.7%), the most prevalent type was the mild gingivitis followed by moderate and a few cases of sever gingivitis. Concerning plaque index and gingival index, a high significant differences were reported within categories of residency (urban, rural) and gender (male, female) while no significant difference was reported with calculus index. Highly significant correlations were recorded among plaque, gingival, and calculus indices.

Prevalence of enamel anomalies was (19%) of total sample; the most prevalent type was diffuse opacities (10%) while the lowest was hypoplasia (1.5%). The number of affected students of total sample was (144); male (82) and female (62), no significant correlation between urban and rural or male and female students.

Conclusion: A high prevalence of dental caries and periodontal disease indicate the need for an improving preventive public health programs and encouraged to orient health knowledge in a positive direction.