
Assessment of the Patient's Education and Motivation in the Maintenance of Oral Hygiene

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Good oral hygiene is *conditio sine qua non* in prevention of dental caries and periodontal diseases. The acceptance of obtained information related to maintain good oral hygiene depends on several factors such as: age, educational level, personal skill, socioeconomic level etc.

Previous studies revealed that almost 50 % of the general population use a toothbrush only to maintain their oral hygiene (Karihovski B et al., 2001). Malendijk B et al 1995, Koivulsit A et al., 2003, showed that people with a lower level of general education very rarely, or not at all, brush their teeth.

A totla of 117 randomly selected patients who attend the Clinics at our Faculty was enrolled in our study. All of them agreed to fulfill the questionnaire designed by the investigators.

The majority of our patients were highly educated (high school and university degree; 33.3 % and 43.6% respectively). A high percentage of the investigated patients were already educated in oral hygiene through their dentist and media (63.8%), dentist and non-professionals (54.6%) and dentist and dental nursing stuff in 47% of cases. A relatively high percentage (61.5%) of the investigated patients consider that there is no need for additional instructions related to oral hygiene.

More than 50% of our cases only use toothbrush in their oral hygiene. The frequency of brushing the teeth was twice daily in the majority of the investigated patients, while replacements of an old toothbrush with a new one within a period of 3 months was in 79.5% of cases. One quarter of the investigated patients who suffer from some kind of dental problem do not ask immediately for dental intervention.

Our results have shown that the level of maintenance of oral hygiene is rather high. Such results could be related to the high level of general education of the subjects enrolled in the study, and previously obtained education in oral hygiene.

Utjecaj upotrebe duhana na parodontno zdravlje oboljelih od posttraumatskog stresnog poremećaja (PTSP)

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Brojne epidemiološke i kliničke studije utvrdile su pušenje duhana čimbenikom rizika za progresiju parodontne bolesti. Također je pronađena pozitivna korelacija između nižega socioekonomskog statusa i težine parodontne bolesti. Željeli smo istražiti utjecaj pušenja na klinički parodontni status i subgingivni mikrobi profil u pacijenata s PTSP-om i pacijenata s progresivnom parodontnom bolesti. Istraživanje je uključilo 130 ispitanika podijeljenih u 3 skupine. Prva je skupina bila 50 osoba kojima je postavljena dijagnoza PTSP-a, i aktivno su sudjelovali u Domovinskom ratu. Druga se skupina sastojala od 50 pacijenata s uznapredovalim parodontitisom, a kontrolnu skupinu tvorilo je 30 parodontno zdravih osoba. Osobe iz tih skupina nisu bile izravno izložene ratnom stresu. Klinički pregled parodonta uključivao je mjerjenje indeksa plaka (PI), indeksa krvarećeg sulkusa (SBI) dubine sondiranja (PD) i klinički gubitak pričvrstka (CAL). Parodontni patogeni *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (Aa), *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (Pg) i *Eikenella corrodens* (Ec) identificirani su s pomoću metode lančane reakcije polimeraze (PCR). Pušački i društvenoekonomski status, mjerjen stupnjem naobrazbe takođe su određeni. Ispitanici s PTSP-om su u usporedbi s drugim dvjema skupinama imali najveći postotak pušača. U skupini s PTSP-om 78% ispitanika bili su pušači, a samo je 33% kontrolnih ispitanika pušilo. U skupini s PTSP-om 34% je pušilo manje od 20 cigareta na dan, a 30% je pušilo više od 40 cigareta na dan. Ovo razlikuje PTSP skupinu od druge dvije. Rezultati pokazuju da su, gledajući sve skupine zajedno, pušači imali više parodontnih upala i destrukcija nego nepušači, premda su samo PI i SBI vrijednosti bile statistički znatne. Odnos jakosti parodontne upale i destrukcije

u pušača i nepušača je isti, i kada se promatra svaka skupina zasebno. Nisu pronađene statistički znatne razlike između prevalencije bakterija Aa, Pg i Ec imedu pušača i nepušača. Skupina s PTSP-om imala je najniži stupanj školovanja. Navika pušenja i niži društvenoekonomski status čimbenici su koji utječu na zdravlje parodonta i pridonose parodontnoj upali u oboljelih od PTSP-a.

Influence of Tabacco Use on Periodontal Health in PTSD Patients

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Numerous epidemiological and clinical studies have identified tobacco smoking as a risk factor for periodontal disease progression. Positive correlation between lower socioeconomic status and periodontal disease severity has also been found. We wanted to study the influence of smoking on clinical periodontal status and the subgingival microbial profile in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) patients and patients with progressive periodontal disease. The investigation included 130 subjects divided in to three groups. The first group comprised 50 persons diagnosed with PTSD, who has actively participated in the Croatian liberation war. The second group were 50 patients treated for advanced periodontitis, and the control group were 30 periodontally healthy subjects. Subjects from the latter two groups were not directly subjected to war-related stress. Clinical periodontal examination included recording of plaque index (PI), sulcus bleeding index (SBI), probing depth (PD) and clinical attachment loss (CAL). Periodontal pathogens *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (Aa), *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (Pg) and *Eikenella corrodens* (Ec) were identified using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method. Smoking and socioeconomic status, evaluated by the level od education, were also assessed. The group of subjects with PTSD, compared to the other

groups, had most cigarette smokers. In the PTSD group, 78% were smokers, while only 33% of control subjects smoked. In the PTSD group, 34% smoked less than 20 cigarettes per day, and 30% smoked more than 40 cigarettes per day. In this respect PTSD group differs greatly from the other group. The results show that, of all participants, smokers had more periodontal inflammation and destruction than non-smokers, although only PI and SBI values were significantly higher. This relationship is similar for each of the studied groups. No statistically significant difference was observed between bacterial prevalence of Aa, Pg and Ec between smokers and non-smokers. PTSD group had the lowest education level. Smoking habits and lower socioeconomic status are contributing factors influencing the periodontal status of PTSD patients.

S.E.M. raščlamba međudjelovanja Green OR-a i dentina

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Svrha ovoga rada bila je ispitati međuodnos desenzibilizatora dentina Green Ora i restorativnih materijala uporabljenih kod adhejskih preparacija te možebitni učinak na sposobnost adhezije tih materijala na caklinu i dentin. Green Or se rabi za smanjenje bolne preosjetljivosti zuba, tako da uzrokuje mehaničko zatvaranje dentinskih tubulusa ili inhibira repolarizaciju neurona. Mehaničko zatvaranje dentinskih tubulusa postiže se stvaranjem kompaktnoga kristaličnog precipitata, koji pokriva površinu izloženoga dentina, a depolarizacija neurona postiže se otpuštanjem kalijeva iona.

Ispitivanje je provedeno na 6 humanih trećih molara izvađenih zbog ortodontskih ili parodontoloških indikacija. Zubi su podijeljeni na tri skupine od dva zuba s obzirom na materijal uporabljen za ispun: tekući i mikro-hibridni kompozit ili srebrni amalgam. U svakoj smo skupini na zidove dentinskoga kaviteta aplicirali desenzibilizator Green Or te S.E.M. raščlambom, pri velikom stupnju povećanja, promatrali kakav je njegov utjecaj na spoj između dentina i restorativnoga materijala. Svi su se uzorci