

The second national conference on dental hygiene research in Sweden

The second national conference on dental hygiene in Sweden was held at Dalarna University in March 2003.

Five doctoral students and four doctors presented their research, and there was an interesting discussion in the auditorium. There were two new participants: L. Jannesson who presented her research on the effect of different toothpastes on dental plaque and B. Johansson who presented her work on halitosis. Like the first conference, there were many presentations on oral status and oral care for patients with special needs. Dr Almståhl continues her work on the oral microflora at hyposalivation, P. Andersson and K. Andersson their work among geriatric patients and finally Dr Sandberg the research on patients with diabetes.

A. Johansson and Dr Söder presented research related to periodontal disease. A. Johansson's paper is published in *IJDH* 2004, Vol. 2, 23–28.

The concluding remarks was made by Yvonne Nyblom who is a member of the executive committee of the Swedish Dental Hygienist Association (SDHA) and a delegate from Sweden in IFDH.

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Enclosed you will find some of the abstracts:

Oral microflora on the tongue and tooth surfaces in subjects with hyposalivation because of radiation therapy

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Objective: To study the microflora on the tongue and tooth surfaces in subjects with hyposalivation because of radiation therapy in the head and neck region (RT). **Material and methods:** The RT subjects (≥ 16 teeth, an unstimulated secretion rate of ≤ 0.1 ml min⁻¹, 6 months after completed radiation therapy) were matched with controls with normal salivary secretion rates according to age, sex and number of teeth. A clinical examination was performed, and samples for microbial analysis were taken. **Results:** The RT group (n = 16) had a mean age of 53 ± 8 years and 28 ± 2 teeth. The unstimulated secretion rate was 0.02 ± 0.04 ml min⁻¹

and the stimulated 0.4 ± 0.2 ml min⁻¹. On the tongue, *Fusobacterium nucleatum* and *Prevotella intermedia*, associated with gingivitis, were found in low numbers in almost all RT subjects. *Candida albicans* and enterococci, associated with mucosal infections, were frequently found in high numbers. On the tooth surfaces, the number of *C. albicans* was increased. *Lactobacillus* species, indicating an acidic environment, were generally found in very high numbers in the RT subjects. Mutans streptococci, strongly associated with the development of caries, showed a different pattern. In 44% of the RT subjects, mutans streptococci could not be detected; 38% of the subjects showed very high numbers. **Conclusions:** Although high numbers of microorganisms associated with the development of mucosal infections and caries were frequently found in RT subjects, there were differences between subjects, especially for mutans streptococci. Microbial analysis might therefore be a helpful tool to identify RT subjects with an increased risk of oral disorders.

Oral health status in geriatric rehabilitation patients

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The aim of this study was to compare the oral health status among patients at a geriatric rehabilitation ward using an oral assessment guide on admission and at discharge. A further aim was to investigate in what respect oral health procedures recommended in the guide were applied when oral health problems were assessed. Registered nurses performed oral health assessments in 107 patients on admission and at discharge. When oral health problems were assessed, oral health procedures were taken. On admission, oral health problems were assessed in 86% of the patients. The corresponding figure at discharge was 51%. The frequency of the problems was significantly lower at discharge than on admission. Oral health procedures were given to 74% of the patients. Recommended oral health procedures were given when problems related to saliva, mucous membranes, gums and teeth/dentures were assessed. In problems related to voice, lips, tongue and swallowing also, other oral health procedures than the recommended were performed. This study demonstrated that the oral health improved during the hospital stay.

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