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Literature Abstract

Prevalence of dentine hypersensitivity and study of associated factors: A European population-based cross-sectional study

Dentin hypersensitivity (DH) is a common oral pain condition. The aim of this observational, cross-sectional, epidemiologic study was to assess the prevalence of DH and relative importance of its risk factors present in 18- to 35-year-old Europeans. A total of 3,187 patients from general dental practices in France, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom, Finland, Latvia, and Estonia were recruited. Sixty-four examiners were calibrated in their respective countries, obtaining a Kappa agreement of 0.75+. The evaluation was done clinically by cold air tooth stimulation, followed by obtaining the patient's pain rating and investigator's pain rating. Other variables such as erosive tooth wear and gingival recession were recorded, while nature of DH, erosive dietary intake, and toothbrushing habits were accounted for in a questionnaire given to each patient. A total of 1,339 (41.9%) patients reported pain on tooth stimulation and 1,810 (56.8%) scored 1 or higher on Schiff scale for at least one tooth. A highly significant association was noted between questionnaire-reported sensitivity and clinically elicited DH was also found to be correlated with erosive toothwear and gingival recession. Risk factors such as acid reflux, vomiting, sleep medications, energy drinks, smoking, and acid dietary intake may contribute to possible erosive challenges leading to loss of hard tissue and, eventually, to DH. In conclusion, even though the prevalence of DH is high, many patients appear to reflect good coping mechanisms as reflected in a lower clinical reporting of pain.

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