بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

" قالوا سبحانك لا علم لنا إلا ما علمتنا
انك أنت العليم الحكيم"

سورة البقرة: الآية ٣٢

Caries Prevalence In Primary School Children In Egyptian Rural Area (Tameia- El Fayoum)

Thesis

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Dedication

To my parents:

For their endless love and support

To my husband Dr. Ehab Fekry:

For his ultimate support, endless patience and encouragement when it was most required.

To my daughters Nada & Nour

Contents

List Of Tables

Page

List of Figures

Page

Abstract

The present study was undertaken to assess caries prevalence among primary school children in Egyptian countryside represented by the city of Tameia, El Fayoum governorate. We selected 12 Egyptian governmental primary schools in Tameia at El –Fayoum which divided into 2 groups; group 1: Consists of 6 governmental schools in Tameia city (urban) and group 2: Consists of 6 governmental schools around Tameia city at El- Fayoum (Rural). The teeth and the mouth examined using WHO Basic method of oral health survey (1997). DFT and dft data were presented as means and standard deviation (SD) values. Student's t-test was used to compare between urban and rural areas. **Conclusion:** the dft and DFT scores, the results of this study revealed that urban students showed higher means (dft 2.75 and DFT 0.81) than rural students (dft 2.41 and DFT 0.52) but this difference was not statistically significant for both indices.

Keywords: Dental caries, Childhood caries, Caries prevalence in urban and rural area.

Introduction

Introduction

There has been remarkable progress in the reduction of tooth decay in the U.S. over the past 30 years. Nevertheless, dental caries continues to be a significant problem for many children. Dental caries continues to be the most common infectious disease of childhood.

During the past few decades, changes have been observed in the prevalence and distribution of dental caries in the population. This disease is endemic in specific sectors of the population, especially the economically disadvantaged. Some children seem to have a mouthful of cavities, while other children have beautiful teeth. Eighty percent of the dental caries is found in only 25 percent of the children. More than half of all children in the U.S. have dental caries by the second grade of school. By the age of 17, approximately 80% of young people have had a dental cavity.

Dental caries is an infectious, communicable disease, which causes destruction of teeth by acid-forming bacteria found in dental plaque. The most important concept to remember is that caries is a dynamic disease process, and not a static problem. Secondly, before a cavity is formed in the tooth, the caries infection can actually be reversed.

Many industrialised countries have experienced a decline in dental caries prevalence among children over the past decades. This trend of caries reduction may be ascribed to several factors of which the most important are improved oral hygiene, a more sensible approach to sugar consumption, effective use of fluorides, and school-based preventive programmes. Against this, increasing levels of dental caries have been found in some developing countries, especially for those countries where preventive programmes have not been established.

The public oral health services must be generally oriented towards treatment and mostly delivered from hospitals or health care centres. Since the late 1980s, the health authorities have given emphasis to preventive oral care and oral health education in order to improve the oral health behaviour of the public. With respect to the child population, behaviour modification may be a family responsibility, but oral health education could also be given by school teachers.

Dental caries can be prevented by joint action of communities, professionals and individuals aimed at reducing the impact of sugar consumption and emphasizing the beneficial impact of fluoride. In many low- and middle-income countries, however, the number of oral health professionals and access to oral health services are limited. For these reasons professionally applied fluorides have little public health relevance in these countries. Across the world the most important approaches to the effective use of fluorides are automatic fluoridation through water, salt or milk, and self-applied fluoride through use of affordable fluoridated toothpaste.

Review of Literature