An Oral Health Survey for Newly Admitted Undergraduate Students in Hong Kong

Alex Man Him Chau, Chun Hung Chu
Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Aim: To describe the tooth status, periodontal status, oral health believes of students in a university in Hong Kong.

Method: This cross-sectional survey recruited a sample of newly admitted students in a Hong Kong university. Tooth and periodontal status was assessed using WHO criteria – DMFT and CPI index (World Health Organisation. Oral health surveys basic methods. 4th ed. Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1997). Questionnaire was used to study oral health believes.

Results: There were 913 participants. Mean DMFT score was 1.08 ± 1.80 (mean±SD). Majority (88%) had at least one sextant with CPI = 2 or above. One third of participants believed drinking herbal tea could prevent tooth decay and gum disease. This belief was positively correlated with maximum CPI score (B = 0.079, p = 0.002), but not their mean DMFT or DT scores (p > 0.05).

Conclusion: Caries experience among the Hong Kong university students was low. Many had calculus. Misconception on oral disease prevention was common.