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41 Retrospective Patient Evaluation of Supra-occluding Cast Restorations
M. BOTELHO / Discipline of Oral Rehabilitation. Prince Philip Dental Hospital, University of Natal, Durban.

The use of supraoccluding restorations has been described in the management of the worn dentition when insufficient interocclusal space is present for the provision of conventional cast restorations. In this clinical study 14 patients who had received supraoccluding restorations were retrospectively evaluated by way of a questionnaire to assess possible problems with such treatment. The restorations were either cemented as definitive castings and were placed approximately 1.3mm in supraocclusion or provided as intermediate prosthesis to create space before final restoration (two cases). Eight of the patients were female and six males with a mean age of 40.6 years (range 20-75) and the average time of 4.5 years (range 1-8) for the present study. The questionnaire consisted of 31 posterior units for 11 patients and 14 anterior palatal veneers for 3 patients. Using a questionnaire that included a non-structured Likert scale, patients were asked about comfort/mastication, difficulty with eating, thermal sensitivity, whether the restorations affected speech, sleep, concentration at work or if they lost any weight. Based on the recall of approximate palatal veneers. Ten patients reported taking longer to chew food and 1 patient experienced pain from their teeth during eating (mean 2.7). Of these six patients reported pain of thermal origin while eating, however this pain disappeared with time. Excluding previous symptoms no pain was reported from the neck and low levels of pain reported from the face (mean 2.7). Two patients reported higher levels of pain from the TMJ (mean 5.5) although this disappeared in one patient and reduced in the other. Four patients reported difficulty speaking (mean 2.6), three patients difficulty with sleeping (mean 3.6), although these disappeared in a few days and two patients difficulty concentrating at work (mean 3.5). Three patients reported weight loss (mean 2.1 kg). Two patients who expressed higher than average ratings to adverse symptoms disclosed that they did have work related areas which may have been contributing factors. Six patients experienced no pain at any time from the teeth, TMJ, head neck or face during or after the treatment.

Further organization of results in our study compares outcomes of such treatment with a control group to determine which differences are significant.

43 Relation of Calcification of the Styloid Chain and Eagle's Syndrome.
DC BRUMMER* and CP OWEN. Dept. of Prosthodontics, MEDUNSA.

Calcification of the styloid chain may cause pain in the head and neck area. This often plays a role in the presentation of Eagle's syndrome, and has been implicated in various cases of otalgia and other cases of atypical facial pain. There are however, no radiographic features that can be used to identify or distinguish symptomatic from non-symptomatic elongated processes and the diagnosis of Eagle's syndrome must be made clinically. We investigated the prevalence of calcification of the styloid chain and its relationship with Eagle's syndrome. The prevalence of calcification could be related to a high incidence of signs and symptoms of Eagle's syndrome, it may be advisable to examine patients routinely for such signs and symptoms. The orthopantomographs of 71 new patients, eighteen years and older, attending the MEDUNSA Oral Health Care Centre were examined for signs of calcification. Consenting patients were examined for signs of Eagle's syndrome and were requested to fill out a questionnaire related to symptoms of Eagle's syndrome. The results of this study show that there is a high prevalence (60%) of calcification of the styloid chain amongst the patients examined. This is higher than earlier studies. Although 10% of patients with calcification showed none of the symptoms included in the questionnaire, it does put forward a role of calcification in the presentation of having the syndrome. The findings of this study also indicate that calcification of the styloid chain is not related to Eagle's syndrome.

45 An analysis of pre and anti fluoridation attitudes in South Africa. BRAND A.A. and CHIKTE U.M.I. Department of Community Dentistry, University of Stellenbosch, Tygerberg.

A survey on attitudes to water fluoridation in South African population (n=2220) was undertaken in 1988. The purpose of this study was to evaluate responses and reasons of persons favoring and opposed to water fluoridation. In response to a structured questionnaire, 61.3% of respondents favored fluoridation and 9% were against it. Of those who favored the measure, 30% of respondents said it was because it would reduce tooth decay and 50% said it would improve oral health and general health. Respondents indicated that the importance of calcification could be related to a high incidence of signs and symptoms of Eagle's syndrome, it may be advisable to examine patients routinely for such signs and symptoms. The orthopantomographs of 71 new patients, eighteen years and older, attending the MEDUNSA Oral Health Care Centre were examined for signs of calcification. Consenting patients were examined for signs of Eagle's syndrome and were requested to fill out a questionnaire related to symptoms of Eagle's syndrome. The results of this study show that there is a high prevalence (60%) of calcification of the styloid chain amongst the patients examined. This is higher than earlier studies. Although 10% of patients with calcification showed none of the symptoms included in the questionnaire, it does put forward a role of calcification in the presentation of having the syndrome. The findings of this study also indicate that calcification of the styloid chain is not related to Eagle's syndrome.


The purpose of this presentation is to report on the influence of income and occupation levels on the perception of water fluoridation in South Africa. A survey was conducted in 1998 by the Human Sciences Research Council in order to determine the knowledge and attitudes of the South African population towards water fluoridation. A questionnaire was designed and administered in a random household survey. A representative sample of 1200 respondents aged 15 years and older was interviewed. Questions related to current knowledge, sources of information, the perception of water fluoridation, and desirability thereof. Knowledge about water fluoridation was recorded using a 5-point Likert scale. The respondents were divided into two groups: 50% in the group who had never heard of water fluoridation, and 50% in the group who had heard of the purpose of water fluoridation was to protect against tooth decay. This group was increased with educational level to 55% among individuals in the grade 12 plus group. Respondents who thought that water should be fluoridated increased with level of education from 50% to 70% while those who thought water should not be fluoridated increased with level of education from 5% to 9% the same level. These higher educational qualifications seem to influence perceptions on water fluoridation positively. Information programmes on the stage of water fluoridation should be aimed at groups with lower educational levels with the electronic media the dominant source of information.

47 Attitudes to Water Fluoridation in South Africa 1998. U.M.E. CHIKTE and A.A. BRAND Department of Community Dentistry, University of Stellenbosch.

The successful implementation of water fluoridation (WF) in South Africa depends upon support from the public. A survey was conducted in 1998 by the Human Sciences Research Council in order to assess the attitudes towards water fluoridation of the South African public. The survey was designed and administered in a national household survey. A representative sample of 2220 persons over the age of 18 years was interviewed. Questions related to current knowledge, sources of information, the perception of water fluoridation and its desirability as a public health measure were put to the respondents. Only 25% of the population had heard or read of WF. The major sources of information were the electronic media (television and radio respectively), while 2.3% heard about it from dentists. Just over a third of the sample (35.5%) identified the purpose of WF as protection and prevention from decay. 28% said it was to purify water and 28% were uncertain of, or did not know its purpose. Nearly two thirds (61.9%) indicated that fluoride should be added to drinking water if it can reduce tooth decay, while 9% were not in favour of this measure and 29% were uncertain. The results suggest that the general population has very little knowledge of what water fluoridation is, although most were in agreement that it should be implemented to reduce tooth decay. Since a large number of people do not know what WF is, or what it does, health education programmes are recommended.

48 The Effect of Ticlopidine and PVMMA Copolymer on Platelet Aggregation. H. VOLSCHENK*, J.B. DU PLESSIS, I.C. DU PREEZ and L. MATZNER. Medical University of South Africa.

Bacterial plaque is generally regarded as the primary etiological factor in the development of plaque-associated gingivitis and dental caries. Tooth brushing is not always in removing plaque, therefore, the use of antiplaque and anti-gingivitis agents is essential to preventing the production of supragingival plaque. This study was designed to determine the clinical efficacy of a dentifrice containing 0.3% Ticlopidine and 2.0% PVMMA copolymer in a 0.24% sodium fluoride/fluoride base versus a placebo to inhibit plaque regrowth over a 12-hour testing period and to test the protocol using the methodology of a randomised, double-blind, clinical trial. Subjects were examined twice daily for 7 consecutive days at 0600 (pm) after dinner and brushing their teeth and again at 0700 (am) after brushing their teeth, during the 12 hour testing period. A total of 35 subjects completed the study; 19 in the experimental and 16 in the control group. The six Ramfard index teeth were examined using the Modified Plaque index method. The McNemar test was used to test for statistical significance between experimental and control groups and the Chi Squares Exact test for assessment of 95% confidence intervals. The study concluded that Ticlopidine/PVMMA (2.0%) copolymer could be an effective agent in preventing plaque formation. However, the differences were not significant between the two groups at baseline. The mean differences in plaque scores between the two groups were not statistically significant (p>.05). These differences were significantly different on two occasions for the experimental and four occasions for the control group. Although differences between groups and values seemed to be greater in the control group than in the experimental group, the differences were not significant. The inter-examiner variation of the three participating examiners was less than 1%. In conclusion, the plaque pattern scores for Ticlopidine/PVMMA Copolymer inhibits plaque regrowth over a 12-hour testing period. The protocol was effective in measuring the plaque.

The inter-examiner variation can be eliminated by using only one or at the most two well-trained examiners.