

Brazilian Oral Research

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Abstract

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Prevalence and severity of dental fluorosis among students from Jo 鋤 Pessoa, PB, Brazil. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2007, vol.21, n.3, pp. 198-203. ISSN 1806-8324. doi: 10.1590/S1806-83242007000300002.

The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence and severity of dental fluorosis among 12-15-year-old students from Jo 鋤 Pessoa, PB, Brazil before starting a program of artificial fluoridation of drinking water. The use of fluoridated dentifrice was also surveyed. A sample of 1,402 students was randomly selected. However, 31 students refused to participate and 257 were not permanent residents in Jo 鋤 Pessoa, thus leaving a final sample of 1,114 students. Clinical exams were carried out by two calibrated dentists (Kappa = 0.78) under natural indirect light. Upper and lower front teeth were cleaned with gauze and dried, and then examined using the TF index for fluorosis. A questionnaire on dentifrice ingestion and oral hygiene habits was applied to the students. The results revealed that fluorosis prevalence in this age group was higher than expected (29.2%). Most fluorosis cases were TF = 1 (66.8%), and the most severe cases were TF = 4 (2.2%). The majority of the students reported that they had been using fluoridated dentifrices since childhood; 95% of the participants preferred brands with a 1,500 ppm F concentration, and 40% remembered that they usually ingested or still ingest dentifrice during brushing. It was concluded that dental fluorosis prevalence among students in Jo 鋤 Pessoa is higher than expected for an area with non-fluoridated water. However, although most students use fluoridated dentifrices, and almost half ingest slurry while brushing, the majority of cases had little aesthetic relevance from the professionals' point of view, thus suggesting that fluorosis is not a public health problem in the locality.












Keywords : Dental fluorosis; Fluorides; Dentifrices.

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