

Brazilian Oral Research

Print version ISSN 1806-8324

Abstract

TORRES, Sandra Regina et al. Variations of salivary flow rates in Brazilian school children. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2006, vol.20, n.1, pp. 8-12. ISSN 1806-8324. doi: 10.1590/S1806-83242006000100003.

The salivary flow rate (SFR) in healthy individuals may vary according to different factors. There is a scarcity of studies from different geographical areas that analyze SFR variations in children. The aim of this study was to verify stimulated salivary flow rate (SFR) variations in 6 to 12-year-old children, from four different public schools of Rio de Janeiro and correlate these data to gender, age, type of dentition, and health status. Clinical data were taken from the children's medical records that were kept at those schools. Oral examination and sialometry were performed in every child. Salivary flow rate was obtained by chewing-stimulated whole saliva under standard conditions. There were significant differences in SFR according to age (p = 0.0003). Six and 12-year-old children showed the lowest SFR, and when they were excluded from the analysis, no significant differences were found (p = 0.21). There were also significant differences in SFR among

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children from different public schools (p = 0.0009). The gender did not show any correlation to SFR, even when children were stratified by age (p = 0.36). Correlation between SFR and deciduous, mixed or permanent dentition was not found as well. These results show that the analyzed clinical variables did not seem to influence SFR in this children population.

Keywords: Age groups; Child; Saliva.

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