VULNERABILITY OF SPECIFIC CORONAL TOOTH SURFACES TO DENTAL CARIES IN SAUDI VERSUS NON SAUDI POPULATION RESIDING IN JEDDAH

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OBJECTIVE: Dental caries is an ancient disease that is present indiscriminately all Over the world. Research on dental, caries distribution, on permanent teeth surfaces ,among Saudis is non., existent.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: An adult group of 250 Saudi and 250 non-saudi groups With age range of 18 years and abave-were.randomly selected and their teeth were clinically examined far Decayed, Missing, and Filled Teeth-(DMFT) and surfaces (DMFS). For each patient a bitewing radiograph was taken for interproximal caries detection. **RESULTS:** Age range of the study group was 18-50 years, "the mean DMFT was 10.4 and 11.2 for Saudi and Non saudi subjects respectively. The DMFT increased with age in bath groups. The upper posterior decayed teeth showed higher percentage than the bwer with mare acclusal caries than proximal.Significance was-present in the number of Missing Teeth (MT) between both groups for. teeth, extracted due to caries. The upper premolars had a higher number of decayed, missing and filled teeth than bwer premolars.

CONCLUSION: Adults above 18 years of age are highly susceptible to caries. The need on the establishment of new strategies far preventive dental care should be directed toward individuals-assessed to be at high risk.

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