THE PREVALENCE OF LOCALIZED AGGRESSIVE PERIODONTITIS IN 14 – 16-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TABRIZ

Localized aggressive periodontitis is a destructive periodontal disease affecting first molars and/or incisors in young adults. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of this disease in 14 – 16-year-old students in Tabriz.

A two-stage diagnostic procedure was used in this cross-sectional study in which 1,482 school students (14 – 16-year-old) were screened initially through assessment of probing depth around the incisors and first molars and through assessment of plaque index (PI), gingival index (GI), and calculus surface severity index (CSSI). Positive subjects were then diagnosed definitively through full clinical examination including depth and assessment of CSSI, PI, and GI, and bitewing radiographic examination. The difference in gender was evaluated by Chi-square test.

Localized aggressive periodontitis exists among 14 – 16-year-old students. The total prevalence of localized aggressive periodontitis in this age group is 0.5% (0.6% for boys and 0.45% for girls). Chi-square tests showed no difference in gender.

Localized aggressive periodontitis is an early-onset type of periodontitis and the prevalence of localized aggressive periodontitis in this study corresponds to those found in other studies. Further studies are recommended in order to clarify the causes of this disease and to evaluate the disease in younger children.

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EPIDEMIOLOGIC AND PATHOLOGIC STUDIES OF BASAL CELL CARCINOMA

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common malignant neoplasm of the skin. Ultraviolet rays are the most important risk factor for BCC. The purpose of this study was to investigate the epidemiologic features and the effect of diverse variables on each other.

This descriptive study was conducted between 1982 – 2002 in the Dermatology and Pathology Departments of Imam Reza Hospital, Mashhad. One thousand eight hundred and forty-four patients with BCC were evaluated. Patients’ characteristics including age, sex, localization, and job were collected. The collected data were processed and analyzed using descriptive statistics, frequency tables, and analytical statistics.

One thousand eight hundred and forty-four BCC cases with an age range (mean ± 2SD) of 58 ± 28 years and a male-to-female ratio of approximately 1.46:1 were found; this demonstrated a meaningful difference ($P < 0.001$) between the mean ages of men (60 years) and women (55 years). The most prevalent sites of involvement were the nose, face, peri-orbital, and scalp regions, respectively. Eighty-five percent of patients were in the age range of 40 to 79 years. Children (less than 15 years) constituted only 0.23% of cases. It seems that in both sexes, with increasing age, there is a reduction in the relative prevalence of BCC in the scalp and ear regions and an increment in the lip and nose areas. Women had a meaningful ($P < 0.001$) lower relative prevalence of BCC at the ear and neck. Also in this study, the chest, shoulder, and back (nonsun-exposed areas) constituted only about 1% of all BCC cases; this greatly differed from other locations (about 15%). A clear correlation was not found between employment and region of the skin involved.

The higher prevalence of BCC and the higher rate of scalp and ear involvement in men may be due to occupational factors and special styles of clothing in women. Much less relative involvement of nonsun-exposed areas both in men and women may also be a reflection of social habits and daily clothing style.
THE PREVALENCE OF IRON-DEFICIENCY ANEMIA IN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IN SEMNAN CITY

The purpose of this cross-sectional study was to determine the prevalence of iron-deficiency anemia among high school girls in Semnan City, in 2002.

In this study, 402 students were selected from among 4900 students at fourteen high schools in Semnan City through simple random sampling. The study was performed in two stages. Initially, blood tests for hemoglobin were performed for all of the 402 students and later, after primary analysis, those students who were anemic (Hb < 12 g/dL) were selected for a stage-two study wherein their serum iron, total iron-binding capacity, and ferritin levels were measured. Iron-deficiency anemia was defined as serum ferritin less than 15 ng/L, and/or transferrin saturation less than 16%.

The results showed that 38 students (9.5%) were anemic of whom 18 students (4.5%) had iron-deficiency anemia. Also, there was no significant relationship between iron-deficiency anemia and student’s age, age of menarche, or sports activities.

As there was no significant relationship between iron-deficiency anemia and student’s age, age of menarche, or sports activities, further investigations are needed to determine other etiologic factors of iron-deficiency anemia among high school girls in Semnan City.

SKIN LESIONS IN 800 IRANIAN VICTIMS OF MUSTARD GAS, 14 – 20 YEARS AFTER EXPOSURE

Mustard gas is a disabling chemical weapon which was widely used in the First World War and in the Iraq-Iran War. Its toxic effects could be acute or chronic and they particularly affect the lungs, eyes, and skin.

The purpose of this study was to examine the frequency of chronic complications of sulfur mustard gas in Iranian victims 14 to 20 years after exposure.

This descriptive cross-sectional study was performed on 800 patients who were randomly selected from different provinces of Iran, and who had been exposed to sulfur mustard gas during 1983 to 1988. These patients were clinically reevaluated in 2002 – 2003 and laboratory tests were performed, if necessary.

The mean age of the patients at the time of study was 39.3 (±9.8) years. Three types of skin lesions were observed. Nonspecific lesions included xerosis (39.6%), pigmented disorders (19%), cherry angioma (17.4%), seborrheic dermatitis (12.7%), eczema (dermatitis) (12.2%), acneiform lesions (11.6%), tinea versicolor (7%), urticaria (5.1%), vitiligo (3.6%), alopecia areata (2.5%), psoriasis (2%), and aphthous stomatitis (1.3%). Specific skin lesions, called mustard scars, were defined according to morphology, location, and history, and were observed in 44 (5.5%) patients. Malignant neoplasms including basal cell carcinoma, Bowen’s disease, squamous cell carcinoma, mycosis fungoides, and dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans occurred in 9 victims (1.1 %) each.

Mustard gas can cause acute and late-onset skin lesions. Specific lesions resulting from mustard gas, called mustard scars, are the most important finding of this study.
THE PREVALENCE OF OBESITY AND OVERWEIGHT AMONG 7 – 14-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS IN AHWAZ CITY

Childhood obesity is an increasing problem worldwide that holds important health consequences. This cross-sectional study aimed to determine the prevalence of obesity and overweight among 7 – 14-year-old students as well as the clinical status of obese students in Ahwaz. For this purpose, randomized cluster sampling was conducted. Students with BMIs at the 95th percentile or more for age and sex or whose BMIs were more than 30 (whichever was smaller) were classified as obese. Students whose BMIs were at the 85th percentile or more but less than the 95th percentile were considered overweight. Assessment of 4,793 students showed that the prevalence of obesity and overweight was 2.2% and 6.0%, respectively. Obesity was most prevalent in 12 – 14-year-old students. An assessment of obese students showed that 66.7% of obese students at least had one obese parent and 73.1% had a family history of type II diabetes in their first degree relatives. Only 8.3% of obese students had considerable physical activity. Of all obese students, 76.8% reported spending 3 – 6 hours per day watching television. Physical examination of obese students showed that 25.9% had genu valgum (medial angulation of the lower extremity at the knee). Systolic hypertension was detected in 31.5% of the obese students. None of the obese students had signs of endocrine disease. According to these results, the prevalence of obesity in our city is low compared with other countries, but for prevention purposes, it is necessary to educate health care providers in schools and to inform parents about obesity and its complications. Furthermore, screening of obese children for hypertension is recommended.

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AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS IN EAST AZARBAIJAN PROVINCE

High prevalence of psychiatric disorders has been estimated in developed countries by screening questionnaires and standard clinical interviews. However, epidemiological studies of psychological disorders in our country are few. Planning for the provision of essential mental health services to the population requires knowledge of the present status of psychiatric disorders in society. The aim of this study was to conduct an epidemiological study of psychiatric disorders in individuals 18 years and older in urban and rural areas of East Azarbaijan Province.

One thousand two hundred and eighty-six individuals were selected through randomized systematic and cluster sampling methods from existing families in East Azarbaijan Province. The schedule for affective disorders and schizophrenia questionnaires were completed by the clinical psychologists for all of the selected patients. Diagnoses were based on DSM-IV classification criteria.

The results of the study showed that the prevalence of psychiatric disorders in the study population of the province was 15.33% (18.23% in women and 12.51% in men). Anxiety and mood disorders were 8.48% and 2.89%, respectively and were the disorders with the highest prevalence in the province. The prevalence of psychotic disorders in this study was 0.39%, neurocognitive disorders 1.94%, and dissociative disorders 1.63%. In the group of mood disorders, major depression had a prevalence of 2.26% and in the group of anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, with 2.26%, had the higher prevalence.

This study showed that 10.89% of individuals surveyed suffered from at least one of the psychiatric disorders. The prevalence of these disorders in the province among the individuals in the age group of 66 years and above was 13.95%. In individuals whose spouses had passed away, the prevalence was 22.92%. Other groups with rates higher than that of the general population included: residents of Tabriz City (12.45%), illiterate individuals (13.85%), and retired individuals (26.47%). Awareness of this matter reveals the responsibility of health policymakers and programmers for prevention, treatment, and medical education more than ever before in relation to preparing and executing plans in East Azarbaijan Province for mental health services.
PATTERNS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE IN SIX TRAUMA CENTERS IN TEHRAN

Interpersonal violence is a significant public health problem throughout the world. This study aimed to clarify the pattern of interpersonal violence in six trauma centers in Tehran.

In this cross-sectional study, victims of assault-related injuries in a data registry established by Sina Trauma Research Center were studied.

Most of our 479 studied cases were young males. Men and women were most commonly injured in the streets as well as at home (P < 0.001). Men and women more frequently suffered from penetrating and blunt injuries, respectively. Assault by sharp objects was the predominant mechanism of trauma followed by unarmed bodily force. Upper extremities were the most common sites of injuries followed by the cranium and face, chest, abdomen, and lower extremities. The mean length of stay in the hospital was 4.1 days, and 76.4% of the cases had no source of reimbursement.

Knives were used in 42.6% of assaults against victims, a worrisome trend. This is probably due to the lack of any practical laws against wearing sharp weapons in public and the unavailability of firearms due to strict legislation on their ownership. Although control of the ownership and wearing of knives and other sharp objects is more difficult than the control of firearms, it seems to be worth trying to achieve this, especially in developing countries.

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THE PREVALENCE OF PEDICULOSIS CAPITIS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN MASHHAD CITY

Pediculosis is a parasitic infection of human skin. It is usually transmitted through direct contact with a contaminated person or indirect contact with contaminated instruments. Its prevalence is greater in crowded places, including schools. Prevention of this disease causes the promotion of health and the community’s psychological status, and also decreases economic and social costs. There were no available statistics on the prevalence of pediculosis, so this cross-sectional study was conducted. The goal of the study was to determine the prevalence of pediculosis in girls’ primary- and secondary-level schools. The results were compared with statistics obtained from Khorasan Province Health Center after examining 3,186 students in different urban and rural areas. The data were recorded in the questionnaires and statistically analyzed.

The prevalence of pediculosis was 104 per 1,000 students in guidance schools and 94 per 1,000 students overall. The highest prevalence rate was seen in the third and first grade classes in guidance schools, which were 138 and 93 per 1,000 students, respectively. The highest prevalence was observed in the Razavi region, which had a rate of 293 per 1,000 students. The lowest prevalence rates were in the Kalat region, and the third district of the Education and Training Organization. There were no cases in these areas.

These findings show that the high prevalence of pediculosis is a health and social problem. The statistics presented to Khorasan Province Health Center do not show such high prevalence because of the lack of a proper reporting system in health and treatment centers, and also due to education about this disease and different factors affecting its prevalence.

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