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ONCOLOGY; BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

Health related quality of life after mandibular resection for oral and oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma

Van Cann EM, Dom M *et al.* *Oral Oncol* 2005; 687-693

Postoperative radiotherapy had the greatest effect on quality of life (QoL).

In this study, 105 patients (mean age 66, range 26-88 yrs) who had received treatment involving mandibular surgery for squamous cell carcinoma returned questionnaires on QoL. Subjects were followed for 2-7 yrs. In 83, dental occlusion had been achieved, and 82 had normal tongue mobility.

Marginal mandibular resection was performed in 65 subjects and segmental resection in 40. This factor did not affect QoL outcome. However, postoperative radiotherapy correlated significantly with swallowing difficulties, social difficulties with eating, mouth opening, dry mouth, and the use of nutritional supplements. The use of feeding tubes related to the type of neck dissection.

The authors consider that a reduction in radiotherapy and more radical surgical excision might be of benefit to these patients.

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CARIOLOGY

Is there an association between low birth weight and caries in the primary dentition?

Shulman JD *Caries Res* 2005; 39: 161-167

Using data from 4,207 children in the NHANES III study, this investigation found no association.

Early childhood caries is associated with prolonged use of bottle feeding, night feeding, and use of cariogenic foods. This study explored data from the national US survey involving subjects born from 1982 to 1994. Preterm birth was defined as < 36 weeks, and low birth weight as < 2,500 g. Children were examined at 2+ yrs for carious or filled surfaces.

Preterm birth affected 442 children, and low birth weight, 281. The main factors associated with deciduous dentition caries in the final multivariate model were minority ethnic groups, low income, and bottle use after 19 months. There was a significant inverse association of breast feeding with caries. Factors found to be unassociated included maternal smoking, low birth weight, preterm birth, maternal risk factors, and adverse gestational events.

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REMOVABLE PROSTHODONTICS

Indications for removable partial dentures: a literature review

Wöstmann B, Budtz-Jørgensen E *et al.* *Int J Prosthodont* 2005; 18: 139-145

While they were not able to identify compelling evidence, the authors listed various apparent indications and contraindications.

Seven prosthodontists evaluated the literature on indications for removable partial dentures (RPDs), using a detailed search of databases and a decision-making technique.

Evidence-based reasons identified from the literature for use of an RPD included improvement of masticatory function and nutritional status, quality of life and patient satisfaction, and economic aspects of tooth replacement. Possible reasons against RPDs included damage to oral structures through caries and periodontal diseases, and the stability of shortened dental arches.

The authors concluded that these reasons were the best evidence base which could be identified to indicate whether an RPD is indicated.

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ORAL MEDICINE

Tongue disease in advanced AIDS

de Faria PR, Vargas PA *et al.* *Oral Diseases* 2005; 11: 72-80

Numerous tongue lesions were described at autopsy of AIDS patients.

Oral disease is sometimes the first indication of HIV infection. This is more apparent in developing countries. This paper from Brazil reports the results of macroscopic and microscopic tongue examination at autopsy of 62 male and 30 female patients. In 65 patients for whom data was available, the mean of the last CD4 count before death was 82 ± 115 cells/ μ L. The main causes of death were mycobacteriosis (29%) and septic shock (23%).

Histological tongue lesions were found in 75% of patients; 42% were lateral, 26% anterior, 17% medial and 15% posterior. Hairy leucoplakia affected 46%, candidosis, 34%, and in one subject an Epstein-Barr virus positive B-cell non-Hodgkins lymphoma was present. Other less common presentations were described as herpes simplex and cytomegalovirus lesions.

The authors comment that there was frequent non-specific ulceration and glossitis, and suggest that the tongue is a frequent site for end-stage lesions in AIDS.

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