

Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.
The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by Reena Wadia.

Salivation in Parkinson's disease

Verhoeff M C, Koutris M, de Vries R, Berendse H W, van Dijk K D, Lobbezoo F.
Salivation in Parkinson's disease: A scoping review. *Gerodontology* 2022; DOI: 10.1111/ger.12628. Online ahead of print.

Parkinson's disease may result in lower salivary flow rate and higher prevalence of both xerostomia and drooling.

This study provided an overview of the available literature that includes both objective assessments (namely hypersalivation and hyposalivation) and the subjective experience (namely xerostomia and drooling) of salivary problems in patients with Parkinson's disease. A literature search was performed and 63 studies were included. The prevalence of self-reported xerostomia ranged from 49% to 77%, and that of self-reported drooling ranged from 5% to 80%. Ten articles reported a significantly lower mean salivary flow in patients with Parkinson's disease than in controls. None of the articles with both a control group and a patient group reported a significantly higher salivary flow in patients with Parkinson's disease. When questioned about subjective salivary problems, a significantly higher prevalence of both xerostomia and drooling was found in patients with Parkinson's disease than in controls. Patients with Parkinson's disease have a lower salivary flow rate and higher prevalence of both xerostomia and drooling than controls. The complexity of salivary problems present in patients with Parkinson's disease necessitates a multidisciplinary approach.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-022-4312-9>

Men working in dental hygiene

Diaz J, Boyd L D, Giblin-Scanlon L, Smethers R, Vineyard J. Experiences and characteristics of men working in dental hygiene. *Int J Dent Hyg* 2022; **20**: 185–192.

It is important to identify ways to make the hygienist role more inviting to encourage men to join the profession.

There is limited research available about men working in dental hygiene. The purpose of this study was to explore the characteristics and experiences of men in dental hygiene. Cross-sectional survey research was conducted with a sample of male dental hygienists (n = 288). Participants were recruited via social media and snowball sampling. The survey was developed based on nursing literature and validated with a panel of experts. Results revealed participants were more likely to be white (60%), hold an associate's entry-level dental hygiene degree (61%) and work in a private practice dental setting (73%). Sixty-one percent reported full-time employment, and 50% were satisfied or very satisfied with benefits offered by their place of employment. All three sources of gender discrimination (patients, co-workers and employers) were related to experiencing a desire to leave the field. Half of the respondents reported patients had refused to see them based on their gender. This is an area that needs to be addressed in practice settings.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-022-4314-7>

Halitosis during radiotherapy

Maluf G V, Caldas R J, Fregnani E R, Antunes H S, Tobias M A S, da Silva Santos P S. Evaluation of halitosis parameters in patients undergoing head and neck radiotherapy. *Oral Dis* 2022; DOI: 10.1111/odi.14225. Online ahead of print.

Head and neck radiotherapy may be important in the development of halitosis.

This cross-sectional study considered both irradiated and non-irradiated head and neck cancer patients to assess halitosis parameters and correlation with salivary flow, oral hygiene index, radiation dose and tongue-coating index. Hydrogen sulphide, methyl mercaptan and dimethyl sulphide (DMS) levels were measured using a gas chromatograph and sialometry was performed. Thirty-eight patients were allocated to each group. Volatile sulphur compound levels were above the thresholds in both groups. Non-irradiated individuals showed higher levels of hydrogen sulphide and dimethyl sulphide. Patients with asialia had an inexpressive tongue-coating index and increased dimethyl sulphide levels. A decrease in salivary flow rate was followed by a significant increase in volatile sulphur compound levels. Higher doses of radiation to the submandibular salivary glands were associated with higher concentrations of sulphide and methyl mercaptan. Irradiated patients with asialia presented insignificant lingual biofilm. Consequently, lower levels of volatile sulphur compounds were detected in this group. Asialia, a severe radiation-induced hyposalivation, impacted the levels of DMS (extraoral origin).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-022-4313-8>

Sealing the alveolus during ARP

Martins J R, Wagner T P, Vallim A C *et al.* Comparison of the efficacy of different techniques to seal the alveolus during alveolar ridge preservation: Meta-regression and network meta-analysis. *J Clin Periodontol* 2022; DOI: 10.1111/jcpe.13628. Online ahead of print.

Flap advancement and open healing with barrier are efficacious techniques to seal the alveolus during alveolar ridge preservation.

This study aimed to evaluate the efficacy of different techniques to seal the alveolus (flap advancement [FA], open healing with barrier [OHB] and open healing without barrier [OHNB]) during alveolar ridge preservation (ARP) in terms of horizontal ridge width resorption. Randomised trials of at least two months' duration comparing at least two techniques to seal the alveolus against each other or against spontaneous healing (SH) were eligible. Twenty-two studies were included. FA and OHB led to significantly lower ridge resorption than SH, resulting in 1.18 mm and 1.10 mm wide alveolar ridges, respectively. No significant difference between OHNB and SH was found. The treatment with the largest probability for ARP was FA (53%), followed by OHB (39%) and OHNB (8%).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-022-4315-6>