

Abstract

The aim of this study was to assess the prevalence of root caries in a group of Sri Lankan elders. The study was carried out in MOH area of Maharagama, which is an urban area. . The study sample consisted of 600 subjects who were above the age of 60 years. . The study was descriptive cross sectional study. Cluster sampling with probability proportional to size was used to determine the sample. The sample consisted of 53% of females and 47% of males. The prevalence of root caries was 80.2%. The mean number of root caries lesions per subject was 3.5 ± 3.6 . Root caries index was 21.3 ± 22.8 . Palatal or lingual surfaces of roots were more affected by caries than buccal surfaces. Prevalence of root caries was significantly associated with age ($p=0.001$,) education level ($p=0.005$) and use of partial dentures ($p=0.002$). The prevalence of gingival recession was 100% and the prevalence of cervical abrasion cavities was 52%. Prevalence of cervical abrasion cavities was significantly associated with the level of education ($p=0.005$), mode of brushing ($p=0.0001$) and material used for brushing ($p=0.0001$). It is concluded that the prevalence of root caries was high in this group of elderly. It is recommended to carry out similar studies in other population groups such as those from the rural and estate sector and assess the treatment needs for root caries in order that preventive and curative programmes could be planned and implemented.

Key words: prevalence, root caries, gingival recession, cervical abrasion