SALIVARY CHARACTERISTICS ,DIET AND BODY MASS INDEX IN A SAMPLE OF SAUDI CHILDREN WITH SEVERE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES

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ABSTRACT

Aim: The aim of the present study was to study saliva characteristics (buffering capacity, bacterial counts), total daily dietary servings and body mass index (BMI) in preschool children suffering from severe early childhood caries (SEC C) in Jeddah.

Methodology: A total number of 43 children (3· 5 years) were selected for the study. Twenty eight . were diagnosed as SECC and fifteen caries free children (control). For all children a one day diet record was obtained together with measurements of height and weight to calculate body mass index (BMI). A stimulated saliva sample was collected. The buffering capacity, Streptococcus mutans (SM) and Lactobacilli (LB) counts were recorded using CRT® kit (ivoclar vivadent).

Results: SM and LB were the only studied variables that showed a significant difference between study and control groups (P = 0.00). Neither BMI, buffering capacity nor total daily servings were significantly different.

Conclusions: Our study failed to prove any significant difference in buffering capacity, total daily servings or BMI between caries free or preschool children with SECC. On the other hand SM and LB counts were significantly higher in children with SECC .

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