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Oral Health Status of Dementia Patients in Chiang Mai Neurological Hospital
Patcharawan Srisilapanan, Chonwarin Jai-ua

Abstract

Objective: Investigate the oral health of patients with dementia and examine the association between the type and severity level of dementia on their dental caries status.

Material and Method: Cross-sectional study conducted on outpatients referred to the memory clinic. Clinical examinations were based on WHO criteria. Socio-demographic data, functional ability, and dementia level were obtained from hospital medical records. The Thai version of the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE-Thai 2002) was used as a cognitive testing instrument. The ability to perform oral care derived from an interview.

Results: Sixty-nine subjects were included in the present study. The mean age was 75.5 (± 7.0) years. Patients with Alzheimer’s disease (AD) constituted the largest dementia group. More than half (60.9%), had dementia for less than two years and were functionally independent (66.7%). The majority (56.5%) had moderately severe dementia. More than half (52.5%) had at least 20 functional teeth. The mean number of teeth was 19.5 (± 8.4). Mean decayed, missing, and filled teeth (DMFT) were 14.9 (± 9.2). More than half (54.7%) had periodontal disease (pocket depth ≥ 4 mm). Dementia severity was the only characteristic which showed a significant difference in dental caries experience ($p = 0.009$).

Conclusion: Dementia patients who attended the memory clinic had considerably better oral status compared to the national data. Dementia severity was the only characteristic that showed a significant difference in dental caries experience

Keywords: Oral health status, Dental caries, Dementia, Periodontal disease

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The Medical Association of Thailand

Address: 4th Floor, Royal Golden Jubilee Building, 2 Soi Soonvijai, New Petchburi Road, Bangkok 10310, Thailand
Telephone: 0-2716-6102, 0-2716-6962 press 0 Fax: 0-2314-6305

E-mail: jmedassocthai@yahoo.com, math@loxinfo.co.th