

ASSESSMENT OF THE GENERAL HEALTH STATUS OF DENTAL PATIENTS BEFORE TEETH EXTRACTION

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ABSTRACT

The **aim** of the present study was to evaluate the general health status of patients that are planned to have teeth extraction under local anesthesia. **Material and methods:** We recruited 635 patients of those treated in the dental surgeries of the Department of Oral Surgery in the Faculty of Dentistry, Medical University, Plovdiv. Prospective questionnaire survey was used to assess their general health status. The questionnaire included demographic questions and questions about current disease. All concomitant diseases that could affect the application of local anesthetic agents were grouped into cardiovascular diseases, endocrine diseases, allergic diseases, and other diseases. **Results:** Most of the respondents were over 50 years old (66.33%). 43.94% of the patients reported presence of some concomitant disease, hypertension being the most prevalent disorder (34.49%). This disease poses a serious risk for patients who receive local anesthesia.

Key words: general health status, anesthetics, teeth extraction

INTRODUCTION

Stress, unhealthy dietary habits and unhealthy way of living, the use of all kinds of chemical substances have raised the morbidity rate of cardiovascular, endocrine and allergic

diseases^{1,5} Along with the drastic aging of population, they present dentists with some serious problems connected with application of local anesthetic agents.^{2-4,6} Therefore we decided to study the general health status of patients attending the clinical surgeries in the Department of Oral Surgery in the Faculty of Dentistry in Plovdiv Medical University.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We conducted a prospective direct questionnaire survey with 635 patients undergoing teeth extraction in the clinical surgeries of Department of Oral Surgery in March, April and May 2005. A special questionnaire was developed (a form requiring informed consent) and signed by patients. It contained questions about the sex, gender and concomitant diseases of patients. The concomitant diseases were grouped in accordance with their capacity to affect the application of local anesthetic agents: cardiovascular diseases, endocrine diseases, allergic diseases, and other diseases.

The results were analysed statistically using ANOVA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out of 635 patients, 273 (43.94%) patients had some concomitant disease and 354 (56.06%) were clinically healthy.

The age and sex distribution of our study sample is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Age and sex distribution of patients

Age \ Sex	Men			Women			Total		
	n	%	Sp	n	%	Sp	n	%	Sp
Up to 30 yrs	30	4.72	3.87	28	4.41	3.88	58	9.13	3.78
31 – 40 yrs	27	4.25	3.88	41	6.46	3.84	68	10.71	3.75
41 – 50 yrs	37	5.83	3.85	51	8.03	3.81	88	13.86	3.68
Over 51 yrs	180	28.35	3.36	241	37.95	3.13	421	66.30	2.30
Total	274	43.15	2.99	361	56.85	2.61	635	100	

Most of the treated patients (66.30%) are over 50 years old, the number of women exceeding that of men by 13.7%.

Table 2 presents the distribution of patients by disease. Part of the respondents had more than one concomitant disease.

Table 2. Distribution of patients by disease

Cardiovascular diseases	Endocrine diseases	Allergic diseases	Other diseases	Clinically healthy patients	Total
279	22	33	63	356	635
43.94	3.46	5.20	9.92	56.06	%
2.98	3.90	3.86	3.77	2.63	Sp

The patients with cardiovascular diseases are 43.94%, with hypertension being the prevalent disorder – a total of 219 (34.49%) patients reported that they had hypertension. This disorder causes serious problems in the dental service of patients. Diabetes forms a considerable part of the endocrine diseases (15 patients, 2.36%). Allergic patients were 33 (5.20%). All these diseases make the choice of anesthetic agent rather difficult.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the results clearly indicates that patients subjected to oral dental surgery are predominantly older than 50. Almost half of the patients had some concomitant diseases with hypertension having the greatest incidence. This should make dentists extremely careful in applying local anesthesia as there might be serious complications if it is used incorrectly.

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