



“FACTORS AFFECTING TOOTH RETENTION AMONG ADULT POPULATION OF DHARWAD DISTRICT”

By

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Oral health in relation to general health is influenced by the retention of teeth. Understanding the factors affecting tooth retention will help the health and social policy-makers to translate the knowledge on tooth retention into action programs for improving the oral health of the people and hence enhance the tooth retention. **Aim:** To determine the factors affecting tooth retention among adult population of Dharwad district, India. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional survey of 1100 subjects (616 urban and 484 rural) residing in Dharwad district was conducted. Proforma was prepared and data was collected by interview method and clinical examination. Information was collected on socio-demographic factors, oral hygiene practices, diet practices, adverse oral habits and frequency of dental visits. **Results:** 66.72% subjects retained all the 28 teeth and mean number of teeth retained by the study subjects were 25.33. A total of 9 out of the 22 factors included in the model were found statistically significant in stepwise regression model ($R = .53037002$, $R^2 = .28129236$, Adjusted $R^2 = .27535808$, $F(9,1090) = 47.401$, $p < 0.0000$ Standard Error of estimate: 2.8001) and the model was found to be significant (47.401, $p < 0.0000$). Distribution pattern of tooth retention showed highest retention of lower canines (98.72%) and least by the lower 1st molars (88.9%). Further, no difference observed in tooth retention between upper (95.31%) and lower arches (95.35%) and anterior teeth (90.09%) showed greater retention as compared to the posterior teeth (69.72%).

Conclusions: Chewing habits, frequency of change of brush, occupation, type of diet and method of brushing emerged as positive predictors and age, visit to dentist, marital status and type of aid used in cleaning emerged as negative predictors of tooth retention respectively.

Key words: Tooth retention; factors affecting tooth retention; patterns of tooth retention; cross-sectional survey