

THE DISTRIBUTION OF NON CAVITATED AND CAVITATED LESIONS IN A SAMPLE OF PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The decline of caries levels all over the world, as well as the change of lesion behaviour and progression, attracted the attention of oral researchers for more sensitive criteria for caries diagnosis. This study aimed to survey the distribution of non cavitated and cavitated carious lesions in a sample of preparatory school students around 12 years old. and some relevant sociodemographic factors affecting that distribution. The results indicated the higher prevalence of non cavitated 3.9% than cavitated lesions 0.6% and their distribution was significantly affected by the tooth affected (mainly 1st then 2nd molars), and lesions were mainly located in pit and fissure surfaces (15.4% occlusal, 2.3% buccal, fissures, 1.8% lingual, 0.2% mesial, 0.1% distal). The older age group and females had more non cavitated lesions. As regards oral hygienic procedures, the use of fluoride tooth paste and the regular tooth brushing were associated with a lower lesion distribution. Among the socioeconomic factors included, the type of school (private versus public) was associated with lower caries and mother's and father's highest level of education was associated with lower caries prevalence. These findings highlight the importance of non cavitated carious lesions as they are more prevalent.

preventable, and future caries risk predictors, and hence school dental health education and oral prevention seem to be the most appropriate strategy.

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