

**THE WIDTH OF THE ATTACHED GINGIVA (AG) IN A GROUP OF SRI LANKANS****S. L. Ekanayake and B. R. R. N. Mendis***(Dept. of Community Dental Health and Dept. of Oral Surgery and Oral Pathology,  
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Studies in U.S.A. and Finland showed that the width of the AG varied between individual teeth and between the maxilla and the mandible, with the mean width ranging from 1.4 — 5.2 mm.<sup>1,2</sup> No studies are available for an Asian population whose dietary and oral hygiene habits differ. This study was designed to determine (A) the width of AG on the buccal and labial aspects of deciduous and permanent teeth, and (B) the

## SECTION A

variation of this width between maxillary and mandibular arches and also with age. Using a periodontal probe the width of AG in 97 subjects (50 males and 47 females, age 3-40 years) was measured and the results subjected to a statistical analysis. The results showed that:

- (a) In the permanent teeth the width is greatest in relation to the maxillary incisors  $\bar{x}$  — 4.41 mm. (range 2.0-7.0 mm) and narrowest in relation to the mandibular premolars  $\bar{x}$  — 1.96 mm. (range 0.5-4.0 mm). In deciduous teeth the width is greatest in relation to maxillary incisors  $\bar{x}$  — 2.84 mm (range 1-4.5 mm) and narrowest in relation to mandibular canines  $\bar{x}$  — 1.41 mm (range 1.0-2.0 mm).
- (b) The width of AG in relation to the maxillary permanent incisors, canines, and premolars is greater than the width in relation to the respective mandibular permanent teeth ( $p < 0.01$ ) but there is no significant difference between the maxillary and mandibular first molars.
- (c) There is a significant difference between the width of AG in relation to deciduous maxillary and mandibular incisors and canines ( $p < 0.05$ ) but no significant difference between the deciduous maxillary and mandibular molars.
- (d) The width of AG increases with age, and in Sri Lankans is less than that of comparable Western populations.

## References

1. Bowers, G. M. (1963), *J. Periodont*, **34**, 201.
2. Rose, S. T. and App, G. R. (1973), *J. Periodont*, **4**, 131.