

A-30: Prevalence of cemental caries in a Sri Lankan population : a preliminary study

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The exposure of the roots of the teeth to the oral environment has increased the prevalence of root surface caries, particularly that of cemental caries. The published studies that have documented the proportion of the population with untreated root surface caries report prevalences ranging from 17% for those over the age of 30 years to 37% for over 50 years of age. No data is available for Sri Lanka, therefore a preliminary study was carried out to assess the prevalence of root caries in a Sri Lankan population. (This is part of an ongoing study).

The sample for this study consisted of 60 patients aged 40 years and over from the village of Panwilatenna in Udapalatha Divisional Secretariat in the Kandy District of the Central province of Sri Lanka. A visual intra-oral examination for caries was performed using a mouth mirror and explorer. Teeth present and root caries lesions were recorded on a custom designed form along with demographic data relating to the age and sex. The root caries index proposed by Katz (1980) was used to record root caries.

The index is represented in the following manner.

$$\frac{(RD) + (RF)}{(RD)+(RF)+(RN)} \times 100 = \text{RCI Score}$$

RD=recession with decay; RF=recession with filled root surface;
RN= recession with sound root surface; RCI= Root Caries Index

The root caries index (RCI) was calculated for each subject and the mean RCI scores by age and sex was analysed. A total of 60 subjects aged between 40 and 75 years were examined: 36 were females and 24 were males. For the females; mean RCI was 0.31 and SD was 0.72. for the males; mean RCI was 0.9 and SD was 1.03.

Age group	Male mean RCI	Male Mean RCI
40-50	0.60	0.1025
50-60	1.318	0.681
60 and above	0.695	1.406

The results highlight the fact that Root Caries Index tends to increase with age and to be slightly higher in males. RCI is increasing after the age of 60 years in females.