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CROWN DIMENSIONS OF DECIDUOUS TEETH OF SRI LANKANS

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Numerous studies on the metrical dimensions of the deciduous teeth have been carried out in several population groups. Although metrical dimensions of the permanent teeth of Sri Lankan are available, there is no information regarding the metrical dimensions of the deciduous teeth of Sri Lankans. The present study was carried out with the aim of establishing the metrical dimensions of the deciduous teeth in Sri Lankan Sinhalese children.

A total of 610 teeth (324 male and 286 female) constituted the sample. Measurements of mesiodistal and buccolingual crown diameters were obtained from these teeth using a dental vernier caliper. The measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 millimeter by one investigator. The mean values for mesiodistal and buccolingual diameters were calculated. Students' t- test was carried out to find out the significance between the mean values of males and females.

The differences between the mean values of mesiodistal and buccolingual crown dimensions for corresponding teeth of the right and left sides of the dental arches were not significant. The mean values of mesiodistal and buccolingual diameters of all teeth in males were greater than those in the females. The mesiodistal diameter of all maxillary and mandibular teeth in males showed significantly higher values ($P < 0.05$). The buccolingual diameter of all teeth in males, except the mandibular first and second molar and the maxillary first molar showed significantly higher values ($P < 0.05$) than those of the females.

In general, it could be concluded that the metrical dimensions of deciduous teeth of the Sri Lankan Sinhalese males are larger than those of the females.