

CAUSES AND PREVALENCE OF TRAUMA TO PERMANENT TEETH

A.M.W.C. ABEYKOON*, R.M. PATHIRAJA AND K. A. WETTASINGHE

*Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dental Sciences,
University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya*

Trauma to teeth is quite common and there have been numerous studies worldwide on the prevalence of dental trauma. It also has been reported as a serious dental public health problem among children.

The objectives of this study were to assess the prevalence, etiology, type of injury to permanent teeth and background data of patients attending the Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya.

In this prospective investigation, 946 consecutive new patients attending the Department of Restorative Dentistry were examined for history and evidence of trauma to permanent teeth with etiology, age and gender from August 2002 to December 2002. Any evidence of trauma where present, was recorded according to the Ellis' classification. The patients were examined by the two principle investigators and evidence of trauma to permanent teeth and background data recorded using a pre prepared questionnaire.

There were 514 females (54.33%) among the 946 patients we examined. 167 (17.7%) patients gave a positive history of trauma to the oro-facial region. Among them the majority were males (66.47%). There were 163 patients (17.23%) with clinical evidence of trauma to teeth. The highest incidence of traumatic injuries (27.5%) has happened when the patient was between the age of 11-15 years. The second highest (26.3%) was in the age group of 16-20 years. In 52.1% of the patients, the cause of trauma was due to fall and 22% exhibited assault. Fractures of teeth (77.8%) were the most observed type of injury. The commonest category was class III fractures (34.1%) with class I and II, 29.9% and 13.8% respectively. Discolouration of the teeth was exhibited in 49.1% of the patients. Among the patients with history of trauma, 29.9% have received root canal treatment and 2.4% have undergone extraction. 2.39% of the patients exhibited cracking of teeth.

Trauma to permanent teeth is a serious health problem in Sri Lanka. Most injuries to teeth have occurred in males, due to falls in the age group between 11 and 15 years, with class III type fractures being the most observed injury.