

REASONS FOR EXTRACTION OF PERMANENT TEETH IN PATIENTS SEEKING DENTAL CARE

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The aim of the present study is to investigate the reasons for tooth extraction and the type of teeth commonly extracted at the Dental Hospital (Teaching), Peradeniya. A random sample of 1014 patients was selected for this study. A questionnaire was used to collect information on socio-demographic data, reasons for extraction, type of tooth extracted and habits such as smoking and betel chewing. The questionnaire was pretested among 20 subjects. The data were recorded by the dental surgeons and undergraduate dental students who carried out the extraction of teeth. The age of the patients ranged from 11 to 90 years. The mean age was 39.5 years. There were 59% females and 41% males in the sample. Among the 1014 patients 109 (11%) were current smokers and 905 non-smokers.

A total of 1190 teeth were extracted from the 1014 patients. The study showed that caries and its sequelae were the most common reasons for extractions (72%). This was followed by extractions for periodontal disease (17%) and for preprosthetic preparation (5.4%). Mandibular molars were the most commonly extracted teeth due to caries (90%). Mandibular incisors were more often extracted due to periodontal disease (37%). Extractions of septic roots were considered under sequelae of caries. Extraction of teeth due to caries and its sequelae was very high (91%) in the 21-30 year olds. Extractions due to periodontal disease were most common among the 51-61 year old age group (41%). Among the betel chewers, extractions of teeth due to periodontal disease (34%) were higher when compared to non-betel chewers (15%). Among those who lost their teeth due to periodontal disease, there were 30% of smokers whilst only 16% were non smokers.

In conclusion, caries and its sequelae were the most common reasons for extraction of teeth among the younger age groups.