

EVALUATION OF ORAL HYGIENE STATUS AND HABITS IN PATIENTS WITH CLEFT LIP AND PALATE – RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study was to evaluate oral hygiene habits and status of patients with clefts. **METHODS:** The study comprised retrospective analysis of a questionnaire routinely applied at the Oral Prevention Sector of HRAC/USP, including questionnaires of 424 patients attending the sector. **RESULTS:** The mean daily frequency of toothbrushing was 3.3 times; 27.9% used the dental floss regularly and 39.6% at times; 69.4% presented regular oral hygiene. There was statistically significant association between age range, plaque score and utilization of dental floss; socioeconomic level and utilization of dental floss; and frequency of toothbrushing, plaque score and utilization of dental floss. **CONCLUSIONS:** Patients with clefts have mostly considered regular oral hygiene associated with sporadic use of dental floss, and should be continuously encouraged to improve their habits and oral hygiene, especially at young ages, with emphasis to regular flossing; specialized craniofacial centers and general dental clinics assisting these patients should provide oral health counseling on a routine basis.