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# PREVALENCE AND SEVERITY OF DENTAL CARIES IN CHILDREN WITH CLEFT LIP AND PALATE WERE COMPARED AMONG SIBLINGS

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**INTRODUCTION:** The successful esthetic and functional rehabilitation of children with cleft lip and palate is due in part to the conditional oral healthy. The discrepancies in the literature regarding the higher prevalence of caries in children with cleft lip and palate in the general population led to this study. **OBJETIVE:** We aimed to compare the prevalence and severity of dental caries among children with cleft lip and palate  and brothers without cleft. **METHODS:**  We studied 30 pairs of siblings aged 6 to 72 months, of both genders. The Study Group (SG) was composed of 30 children with clefts who still in attendance at Outpatient Cleft FOUSP, since the first days of their lives. The control group (CG) consisted of 30 siblings, without any congenital deformity, who lived in the same house to ensure the same diet and similar oral care by their parents. The clinical examination was performed by a single researcher (Kappa 1.0) in a dental chair under light reflector after prophylaxis of the dental arches. Dental caries were diagnosed according to WHO criteria, by the visual method and, when necessary, with tactile probe IPC. The caries severity were classified according to FDI / WHO (1982). **RESULTS:** The average age of SG was 2.8 years, with 6 children caries, dmf-t and dmf-s average 0.40 and 0.50 respectively (severity "very low"). The CG with an average age of 3.6 years, There were 9 children with caries, with dmft and dmfs average 1.53 and 2.63 (severity "moderate"). Statistical analysis (chi-square test) showed no significant difference in caries prevalence between the groups (p = .55). **CONCLUSIONS:** The prevalence of dental caries was distributed similarly in both groups, but the severity was lower in children with oral clefts.