

DENTAL DISEASES AND POST COVID-19 ERA

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted healthcare delivery, including dental care. This cross-sectional study aimed to investigate the association between the pandemic and oral health behaviors and self-reported dental problems in a post-pandemic population. Adults residing in Riyadh Province, Saudi Arabia, were recruited (n= [sample size]). Participants completed a self-administered questionnaire assessing demographics, access to dental care during the pandemic, changes in oral hygiene practices, dietary habits, and self-reported dental problems. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square tests were used to analyze the data. The results revealed that a significant proportion of participants experienced disruptions in dental care access during the pandemic. Self-reported reductions in brushing and flossing frequency, along with increased sugary snack consumption, were observed. Furthermore, a higher prevalence of self-reported dental problems (toothaches, gum bleeding) was found among those with reduced access to care and those reporting changes in oral hygiene behaviors. These findings suggest a potential link between the pandemic and increased risk factors for dental diseases. Public health initiatives promoting oral hygiene practices and ensuring equitable access to dental care are crucial in the post-pandemic era.

KEY WORDS: Dental, Disease, Covid -19, Comparision

Article History

Received: 22 May 2024 | Revised: 20 Aug 2024 | Accepted: 21 Aug 2024
