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Prevalence of hypothyroid disease in patients with hyposalivation

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Hyposalivation i.e. dry mouth might be induced by certain systemic diseases such as Sjögren's syndrome, sarcoidosis, irradiation of the head and neck area due to cancer therapy. However, most frequently hyposalivation is drug-induced. There are scarce data in the published literature regarding hypothyroid disease and hyposalivation. Most of the studies reported hyposalivation in these patients. Three hundred and thirty four patient charts were randomly retrieved from the year 2014 at the Department of oral medicine in Zagreb. There were 323 women and 11 men included in this study, age range 34-79 years. Eighty six patients (25.7%) had decreased salivary flow rate (measured according to Navazesh, i.e. less than 0.4 ml in one minute). Out of 86 patients with dry mouth, 19 were hypothyroid, i.e. 22%. It seems that patients with dry mouth should be screened for thyroid disease unless they do not have other common causes for dry mouth as obtained from detailed medical history such as drug intake side-effect, Sjögren's syndrome, irradiation of the head and neck area. As complications from hyposalivation may cause a significant disruption in speech, eating habits, social interactions and overall well-being it is of utmost importance to recognize its manifestations in the oral cavity. Furthermore, hyposalivation may lead to increased incidence of caries, sialoadenitis, gingival disturbances and Candida infections.

Biography

Vanja Vucicevic Boras obtained PhD degree in 2004 and became specialist in oral medicine in Zagreb. She attended Postdoctoral studies at the University of Queensland, Australia. She is the Head of the Department of Oral Medicine, School of Dentistry, University of Zagreb, Croatia. She has published more than 50 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute. She is author and co-author of 6 books.

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