

ABSTRACT

Oral characteristics of patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). Descriptive study

Introduction: In its evolution, Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) affects the stomatognathic system, a condition that has not been studied in our country. **Objective:** To describe the oral clinical characteristics and age-related association in patients with DMD. **Patients and Method:** Cross-sectional descriptive study including 81 patients with DMD of Instituto Teletón Santiago, recruited from August to November 2017, with informed consent. A diagnostic clinical examination was performed to establish the presence of clinical cavities (DEFT, DMFT index), oral hygiene index (Green and Vermillion, simplified), presence of malocclusions, and age-related associations. **Results:** 65.4% of patients did not have caries or restorations, showing an average of DMFT = 1.7 ± 1.2 , and DEFT = 2.1 ± 1.6 . Average oral hygiene index was 1.9 ± 0.8 , which is considered regular. 67.9% of the patients had some type of malocclusion, with a statistically significant relation between the presence of cross bite and age group ($p < 0.05$). **Conclusions:** Lower presence of clinical caries in DMD patients as referred to in bibliography for healthy patients, could be due to periodic dental controls provided by Instituto Teletón Santiago. Increased cases of malocclusions with age may be an indicator of progress of the disease, because changes in the function of mastication muscles are time-dependent, and increase transverse jaw width, causing more prevalent malocclusions such as cross bite and open bite.

Key words: Duchenne muscular dystrophy, caries, oral hygiene, malocclusions.