Introduction

Periodontal diseases, dental caries, malocclusion, and oral cancer are the major dental problems effecting people worldwide as well as in Indian community.1 By knowing the reasons for the tooth loss, it's easy to plan the preventive methods and develop new strategies for the patient education. Periodontitis is an infectious disease characterized by inflammatory changes in the tissues surrounding to teeth leading to periodontal attachment loss and alveolar bone destruction. As dental caries has declined, periodontitis has become the most common reason for tooth loss in adults.2 The aim of this study was to assess the reasons for tooth loss among Haldia population.

Materials and Methods

A Cross sectional study was conducted from the data of a total number of 570 patients (Male-313 and females-257) attended the outpatient clinic, Haldia Dental College, India, with tooth loss during June 2013. Sample population includes a total number of 570 patients (Males-220 and Females-351) who had a missing tooth during the history was recorded. The Socio demographic details including the age, gender and cause of extraction were collected from the records. The causes other than dental caries and periodontal disease were excluded and in case of multiple tooth loss with different causes, the main reason, which leads to maximum number of tooth loss, was considered. The reasons for tooth loss were plotted as due to dental caries and Periodontitis. The data were transferred to SPSS V.20 and the mean, Percentages were calculated. The Students “t” test was done to find the significance of relation between the age, gender and reasons for extractions.

Results

During the course of study a total of 570 permanent teeth loss were reported due to dental caries and periodontal diseases. The sample consists of 54.9% (313/570) males and 45.1% (257/570) females with an average age of 50.57 (SD 10.57) years.

Gender: The main reasons for tooth loss was mobility in both males (285/313) and females (231/257) than caries (males 28/313 and females 26/257) which was statistically significant P=0.01 (Graph 1). The study has shown a steep increase in the frequency of extraction among older group of patients, which peaks in above 50 years. More than 90.5% (516/570) of teeth loss was due to mobility. This result clearly indicates that periodontitis is a disease among this population. Total extraction due to dental caries was seen more in males than females.

Discussion

The reasons for tooth loss seen in this study supports the widely held view that periodontitis is the most common cause of extraction irrespective of the age of population in this geographical area.3 Comparing the present study with similar studies done abroad,3-8 the difference is mainly in the reason for extraction. It was caries in general and in our population it’s due to periodontitis, this might be due to the decreased awareness for oral hygiene in this area.

Over 9.5% (54/570) of the total extractions noted in this study were due to dental caries which is slightly lower than that of studies reported from abroad.3-5,7-9 The present study also shows that periodontal disease for extraction became significant from 51-60 years onwards, contrary to its occurrence above 60 years in studies reported from developed countries.3-8 In developed countries where level of oral health awareness is high percentage of extraction in younger age group due to dental caries is much less and those due to periodontal cause is very rare.

Key words: Dental Caries; Extraction; Periodontal Disease
In a similar study done at dental college, Calicut, India and dental college, Trivandrum, India where the epidemiological variables compare well with the represent study, the transition from extraction due to caries to periodontal disease occurred at around the age range of 41-50 years, where as in our population the reason was periodontitis in all age groups.

Male were less frequent visitors than the females and this behavior contributed to their extraction percentage. The introduction of different awareness programme by the electronic media, inclusion of oral health education classes during school levels fluoride application, pit and fissure sealants etc. measures will help a long way on retaining these teeth. The present study shows that periodontitis is the leading cause of extraction. In case of tooth loss due to periodontal disease, the age of onset, progress and final outcome coincide well with the natural course of disease.

Conclusion

In conclusion, periodontitis the major cause for loosening tooth among all age group of people can be reversed by cultivating prevention oriented habits and attitudes to bring down tooth mortality. Retention of a complete functioning dentition throughout life should be the ultimate goal of our profession.

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References

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