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Comparison of dental and periodontal problems in liver and renal failure patients with normal population

Mohamad-Reza Salahi, Mohammad Mehdi Fani, Heshmatollah Salahi, Roohollah Salahi and Abdolaziz haghnegahdar Affiliation, Iran

Introduction: Transplantation is the best treatment for organ failure. However, the patients who have to undergo transplantation should wait for a long time, and this might contribute to developing some complications. Moreover, after excessive search in medical journals, we found that previous studies mostly have focused on the oral cavity in the transplant patients, in chronic renal failure and in liver disease, however, there are few studies which evaluate dental health status and radiographic evaluation in liver failure or renal failure patients. This motivated us to conduct the present study to compare the renal failure and liver failure patients with normal people with regard to the findings of oral cavity and oral plain radiography.

Methods: This is descriptive study conducted on the patients with chronic renal or liver failure who were registered for transplantation on the waiting list, in Nemazee Hospital Transplant Center. Oral examinations and oral plain graph were requested. After consulting the statistic professor, we assign the participants to three groups: chronic renal failure CRF (n:50), liver disease (n:50), and normal group (n:50). The data were entered in SPSS and were analyzed.

Results: The three groups participated in the present study were the normal group (n:50), CRF group (n:50), and liver failure (n:50) group. Gingival recession was observed in 16, 23, and 33 patients in normal, CRF group, and liver failure group respectively (P value<0.05). We also noticed bone loss in 13, 23, and 29 patients in normal group, CRF, liver failure group (P value: 0.002). The mean number for missing teeth, the teeth needed extraction, the teeth needed root canal therapy, the teeth for which root canal therapy had already been performed, the teeth that had been filled before the study, and the teeth in need of filling for the liver failure group was more than that in the normal group. (The P value was <0.05). However, the mean for CRF group was significantly lower than that for the normal group (P value<0.05) compared with the normal group. The mean number for missing teeth in CRD group was significantly higher.

Conclusion: Gingival recession and bone loss in liver failure and chronic kidney disease group were significantly more than that in the normal group. The prevalence of caries was lower in CRF patients compared with the normal group; in contrast, missing teeth, filled teeth, dental filling and root canal therapy were lower in the liver failure patients than that in the normal group. Missing teeth was more prevalent in chronic kidney disease than normal group

salahi.m@hotmail.com

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