

Medical Problems in a sample Of Iraqi dental patients

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Abstract

Medical status of 679 subjects, who attended a dental department in one of the public clinics in Baghdad, was examined, significant medical histories were found in 133 (19.5%) of the subjects. They included diabetes mellitus (5.31%), hypertension (3.54%), and peptic ulcer (2.21%), adverse drug reactions (1.18%), neurological disease and (0.88%), and blood disorders (0.20%).

Introduction

As a result of improved medical care and knowledge among dental patients, many of those are medically compromised many attend dental clinics. This necessitates the need of proper knowledge among dental practitioners in dealing with these patients^(1,2,3). As many medical diseases have oral manifestation⁽⁴⁾ it is very important for the dentist to recognize systemic diseases in patient^(2,4). Modifying the treatment plan is very important with patients with systemic diseases; this can be done by taking a medical history and providing oral health care for them⁽⁵⁾.

Materials & Methods

Medical histories were taken from (679) adult patients that included 282 males (41.5%) and 397 females (58.6%). They attended a dental department in one of the public clinics in Baghdad. Age of the subjects ranged from (16-70) years, all subjects who came seeking dental treatment were questioned about their detailed past and present medical status before starting treatment.

Statistical Analysis

Chi-square test was used to determine the statistical significance at $P < 0.05$ level.

Results

Age and sex distribution of the sample is present in table (1). There were 133 (19.5%) patients out of 679 subjects with significant medical histories. The age of these patients ranged from (17-68) years. A highly significant association was found between sex and age groups of the patients; that is sex of individuals within each group is distributed differently. As appears from table (2). The number of females is greater than males, but after age of 60 the number of males is greater than females. Six of the patients had more than one medical condition. The distribution of these patients is equal between males and females and located in the age groups of (40-60) years and (over 60) years. Patients with adverse drug reactions were also included in this study because it might affect dental treatment. Eight patients reported adverse drug reactions; six of them were allergic to penicillin. Distribution of patients with significant medical

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conditions is presented in table (3). Sex difference in relation to medical history is statistically significant.

Discussion

The subjects were obtained from a public clinic in Baghdad. Medical histories of the patients were recorded. From this sample (133) reported medical histories of significance to dental practitioners. Diseases most commonly reported were diabetes mellitus, hypertension, peptic ulcer, and heart disease respectively. The age group of the majority of these patients was (46-60) years. Similar studies showed incidence of medical histories in 27.7% out of 1500 dental patients⁽⁶⁾, 37.2% among 2087 dental patients⁽⁷⁾.

Diabetes mellitus was reported in 5.3% of the sample in our study. This is higher than that which was found in Jordanian population⁽⁸⁾. Diabetic patients formed a large part of dental clinic attenders due to the fact that they are more prone to caries and periodontal diseases than the general population^(9,10). On the other hand, diabetics suffer from certain problems such as oral candidiasis, xerostomia and impairment of taste⁽¹¹⁾ therefore dentists should be very careful in handling diabetic patients during dental treatment.

Hypertension was reported in 3.5% of our sample, which is less than that reported in Jordanian population⁽⁸⁾. Heart disease was reported in 21% of the sample. Special care should be taken in dealing with these patients regarding to the use of local anesthesia and stress that might result from dental treatment.

It is concluded from this study that careful medical history should be taken before starting the treatment for protection of both patients and dental practitioners.

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Table (1): The age and sex distribution of 679 subjects

Group	16-30		31-45		46-60		> 60		All	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Male	108	15.9	121	17.8	32	4.71	21	3.09	282	41.53
Female	193	28.4	118	17.4	76	11.2	10	1.47	397	58.64
Total	301	44.3	239	35.2	108	15.91	31	4.56	679	100

Table (2): The age and sex distribution of 133 patients with significant medical histories among 679 subjects.

Group	16-30		31-45		46-60		> 60		All	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Male	4	3	8	6	19	14.2	20	15	51	38.3
Female	12	9	17	12.7	43	32.3	10	7.5	82	61.6
Total	16	12	25	18.7	62	46.6	30	22.5	133	100

Table (3): The distribution of 133 patients with significant medical histories among 679 subjects.

Medical history	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Diabetes mellitus	15	41.6	21	58.3	36	5.3
Hypertension	15	62.5	9	37.5	24	3.54
Peptic ulcer	3	20	12	8	15	2.21
Heart diseases	6	42.8	8	57.1	14	2.06
Bronchial asthma	5	41.6	7	58.3	12	1.77
Arthritis	0	0	9	100	9	1.32
Adverse drug reaction	1	21.5	7	87.5	8	1.18
Neurological disease	5	71.4	2	28.5	7	1.03
Thyroid disease	0	0	0	100	6	0.88
Blood disorders	1	80	1	50	2	0.29