



## PREVALENCE OF CARIES AND NON-CARIOUS LESIONS IN SMOKELESS AND SMOKING FORM OF TOBACCO USERS IN SULLIA TALUK

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The prevention and control of tobacco use has become an emerging issue of global significance and of central importance to oral health and dental care. Health professionals have a critical role in reducing the tobacco use in which dentists play a significant role as they have unparalleled opportunities to educate and help those who use tobacco to quit on a frequent and regular basis. Though the effects of these harmful habits on oral mucosa has been demonstrated, their independent and combined effect on the caries and non-cariou lesions is unknown and worthy of investigation.

**Aims:** The aim of the present study was to evaluate the psychosocial ideology, pattern of tobacco use and the prevalence of caries and non-cariou lesions in smokeless and smoking form of tobacco users in Sullia taluk.

**Materials and methods:** A cross sectional study was conducted in 200 randomly selected subjects reported to KVG Dental College and Hospital, Sullia, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka. The subjects were grouped as tobacco smokers (Group 1), tobacco chewers (Group 2) and those who uses both forms (Group 3). A questionnaire consisting of 21 questions was handed to the subjects willing to participate in the study to assess their oral health practices and to inspect their dental knowledge & attitudes. Oral examination was done to assess the caries and non-cariou lesions and were scored according to Decayed Missing Filled Tooth index. Statistical analysis of data was done using Chi square test and ANOVA with Fisher exact tests as post hoc test.

**Results :** Across the study groups, prevalence of non-cariou lesion like attrition was more prevalent among tobacco chewers accounting for about 97.5% of cases and was statistically significant. Abrasion was present in 87.0% of the participants while abfraction and erosion accounted for 47.5% and 33.5% respectively. In the current study we found that all the subjects in group 1 and group 3 had a DMFT index of at least 1 while 4 subjects in group 2 had DMFT index 0. The mean DMFT index of group 1 were 7.04 as compared to group 2 and group 3 which was 3.81 and 4.68 respectively

**Conclusion :** With a high prevalence of tobacco consumption in different forms, the oral health of the population is at risk, and this study recommends clinicians to understand the psychosocial ideology, pattern of tobacco use, and the prevalence of caries and non-cariou lesions among the people in order to effectively counsel and motivate them to curb the habit.

**Key words:** Smokeless tobacco, Non cariou lesion, Questionnaire, DMFT index