



## STANDPOINT

From

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## ABOUT

Pleading for a doctoral thesis of D-r Mihail Petkov Onov, titled "Comparative investigation of tooth decay in children from the territory of Plovdiv and the territory of Smolyan-distribution and risk factors", with order of the Rector of MU-Plovdiv, P-1500/10.07.2019, submitted for acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of the scientific specialty "Pediatric dental medicine" with supervisor Professor Ani Belcheva, Ph.D. in Medicine

A lot of epidemiological surveys have been conducted in Bulgaria about tooth decay in children since the middle of the 20-th century. The latter have been used for targeting of prophylactic-curative measures taken from the State, professional organisations and dental practitioners. The huge social importance of epidemiologic data for refinement of the prophylactic measures is a proof that the developed doctoral thesis will enrich and add more knowledge to the surveys in this area in Bulgaria.

### **Aim of the doctoral thesis**

The aim of the doctoral thesis is to research the epidemiologic distribution of tooth decay in people from three age groups- between 5-6 years old, 12 years old and 18 years old living in Plovdiv and villages around Plovdiv, Smolyan and villages around Smolyan as far as defining the ethiological factors- primary and secondary ones for developing of tooth decay.

For accomplishing this aim the PhD student has listed four problems/tasks including the distribution of tooth decay, comparing analysis of the obtained results, influence of the primary and secondary factors and preparing guidelines for improving the oral health. The development of the last problem has the most important practical contribution for the dental practitioners and for the health of the patients. The other problems will add the now-existing data for distribution of the tooth decay and the risk factors.

### **Material and methods**

The object of monitoring is a sufficient number of children 1288, divided in three age groups- 478 children in the group of 5-6 years old, 441 children in the group of 12 years old and 369 in the group of 18 years old, from four areas- city of Plovdiv, villages around Plovdiv, city of Smolyan and villages around Smolyan. The signs of observation are divided into two basic groups: gender, age, geographic area, defined as factor and number of affected teeth from tooth decay, percentage share, children affected from a certain risk factor, p-values in analysis of the impact of risk factors on the distribution of a tooth decay, degree of damage

of tooth tissues from fluorosis, presence and degree of malocclusion, periodontal status, oral-hygiene status as result factors. The epidemiologic survey is conducted in randomly selected schools and kindergartens.

In this research have been used sociological investigation method, epidemiological methods and statistical methods.

## **Results and discussion**

In the obtained results systematically has been reflected the distribution of the tooth decay in children from the age of 5-6 years old, 12 years old and 18 years old in the four areas. It has been done a comparing analysis of the obtained results about distribution of tooth decay with the similar data from the National epidemiological survey from 2010-2011 and also with the aims of WHO for the year 2000. It has been defined the influence of primary and secondary factors for developing a tooth decay in three age groups in city of Plovdiv, villages around Plovdiv, city of Smolyan and villages around Smolyan. It has been surveyed the influence of eating habits, specifics of personal oral hygiene. It has been analysed the effect of socio-economic status of the family, also has been explored the connection between dmft/DMFT and the periodontal status, the presence of fluorosis, malocclusions and OHI index.

It has been done a regression analysis of the impact of the risk factors for the distribution of the tooth decay in children from the three investigated age groups.

The most valuable in the developed doctoral thesis is the preparation of guidelines for improving the oral health of the children in the explored age groups.

As a result of the conducted investigations and analyses have been formulated 10 conclusions concerning comparison of dmft/DMFT distribution, comparison of distribution by regions, comparison with former national epidemiologic surveys, as far as with the influence of nutritional, hygienic and socio-economic factors.

There have been formulated three conclusions with original character and two conclusions with confirmatory character.

D-r Onov has pointed out four publications in Bulgarian language related with the developed doctoral thesis. He is the first author in all of these four publications, alongside with his supervisor and this fact shows his leading role in the investigation. There have been described 8 participations in scientific events.

In conclusion, D-r Mihail Petkov Onov, Assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric dental medicine, Faculty of dental medicine- Plovdiv has submitted for review his own doctoral thesis after conducting a lot of investigations. The contributions and the recommendations for behavior are with practical value and will be helpful for the dental practitioners and for our patients. I confirm in front of the honorable members of the scientific jury my positive vote for rewarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

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