

# **ROOT CARIES AND SALIVARY FLOW RATE IN CHRONIC LIVER DISEASED SAUDI PATIENTS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Background: Root caries is of growing importance because of the increased age average and patients requests to retain their natural teeth. Patients with liver diseases have altered immunity and several disorders that may result in hyposalivation leading to dental caries. Method: Patients, attending the endoscopy unit in King Abdul aziz university hospital in the year 2004-2005, with diagnosed viral and non viral hepatitis were intraorally examined for presence of root caries or filled lesions, and Root Caries Index (RCI) was calculated. For each patient, demographic data, liver enzyme profile and whole unstimulated saliva collected over a recorded time at mid-morning were obtained. The salivary flow rate (SFR) for each patient was calculated. Results: Among 114 chronic liver diseased (CLD) and 50 controls RCI means was 2.5 and 0.34, and SFR was 0.34 and 0.48 respectively. RC was prevalent among males more than females. There was significant inverse relation between high RCI and hepatitis B virus (HBV) positive. No association was found between RCI and SFR. Conclusion: Root caries is prevalent among chronic liver disease patients especially HBV+ and RCI increased with age increase.