The Awareness of Dental Erosion and Its Causes Among a General Adult Population of Trinidad and Tobago

Dental erosion is thought to contribute significantly to overall tooth wear. The prevalence of tooth wear is high in the Trinidadian population with 72% of the population experiencing some form of tooth wear. Once a clinical diagnosis of erosive tooth wear is made or persons are aware of this condition and the causes, preventative treatment is the basis of initial management. This study will aim to understand the level of awareness of erosive dental wear and the knowledge of both causative factors and the factors that are protective in preventing the tooth wear in a general adult Trinidadian population.

We are a group of dental students at the School of Dentistry, The University of the West Indies St. Augustine completing a research project on the awareness of dental erosion in the adult population of Trinidad and Tobago. Participants are therefore asked to fill out this questionnaire for assessment of individual awareness of dental erosion, knowledge of some of the causes and the protective factors that mitigate the development of dental erosion. Your participation in completing the questionnaire below will greatly assist in determining the direction of further research and public health public approaches that can be used in educating the general population of Trinidad and Tobago. This will help us to develop a Prevention Toolkit for Erosive tooth wear for the local population. Please attempt the questionnaire only once.

Consent
The questionnaire will take 5-10 minutes to complete. You may withdraw from this questionnaire at any time.

Confidentiality
No personally identifiable information will be collected. All data derived will be stored electronically on a password-protected computer and accessible only to persons directly related to the conducting of the study for research purposes only. Following data collection and analysis, study results will be disseminated via an oral and poster presentation as well as a research paper for the Faculty of Medical Sciences' annual research day 2024 and publication in a scientific journal.

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Ethics Committee

Campus Research Ethics Committee

The UWI, St. Augustine
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1. Prior to starting the questionnaire, please check the boxes below:

Check all that apply.

- [ ] I am over 18 years of age.
- [ ] I am a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.
- [ ] I agree to participate in the survey.

General

2. In what general area of Trinidad and Tobago do you live?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ North
- ◯ South
- ◯ East
- ◯ West
- ◯ Central
- ◯ Tobago

3. Which one of the following age groups do you belong to?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ 18 to 30 years
- ◯ 31 to 40 years
- ◯ 41 to 50 years
- ◯ 51 to 60 years
- ◯ over 60 years

4. What is your sex?

Mark only one oval.

- Male
- Female

For the next part of this questionnaire please indicate whether you think the following statements are true or false by tapping ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. Please do not guess the answers. If you are unsure, tick the ‘Don’t Know’ box.

Awareness and Causes

5. 1) Have you ever been diagnosed with any type of tooth wear by a dental professional?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

6. 2) I can identify erosive tooth wear on my teeth.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

7. 3) I can tell the difference between tooth decay and erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

8. 4) I can have tooth sensitivity because of erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

9. 5) Gastric reflux can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

10. 6) Chronic heart burn can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

11. 7) Eating disorders can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

12. 8) Conditions that cause prolonged excessive vomiting can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

13. 9) Excessive consumption of sugary foods and beverages can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

14. 10) Excessive soft drink consumption can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

15. 11) Excessive fruit juice consumption can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

16. 12) Excessive consumption of citrus fruits can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

17. 13) Excessive consumption of wine can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

18. 14) Excessive consumption of pickled fruits/veggies can cause erosive tooth.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

19. 15) Drinking lemon water can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

20. 16) Drinking apple cider vinegar can cause erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

21. 17) The temperature at which drinks are consumed can influence erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

22. 18) Your beverage consumption habits (swishing and swilling before swallowing) can influence erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

23. 19) Alterations in saliva can worsen erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

24. 20) The fluoride concentration in drinks can influence erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

25. 21) Calcium and phosphate concentrations of beverages can influence erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

26. 22) Reduced fluoride use can contribute to erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

27. 23) Increase fluoride use can improve/stabilize erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

28. 24) Brushing teeth immediately following an acidic food/drink can protect teeth from erosive tooth wear.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

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