Dental Health Status and Treatment Needs in the Infantry Regiment of the Malaysian Territorial Army

Type: Article

Abstract:

The aim of this study was to determine the dental health status and treatment needs of personnel in the Infantry Regiment of the Malaysian Territorial Army (TA). This cross-sectional study involved stratified and systematic random sampling with a total sample size of 300. Dental health status and treatment needs were assessed using the standard WHO oral assessment criteria (1997). The prevalence of caries experience was 96% (mean +/- SD DMFT [decayed, missing, filled teeth] = 8.0 +/- 5.5). Active decay prevalence was high (85%; mean +/- SD = 3.6 +/- 3.1) indicating high unmet treatment need. Missing teeth prevalence was high (69%; mean +/- SD = 2.8 +/- 3.7). Filled teeth prevalence was low (56%, mean +/- SD = 1.5 +/- 2.0). In all, 90% of participants required some form of dental treatment, of whom 85% required restorative treatment, 5% advanced restorative treatment, 36.7% extractions, and 45.3% prosthetic treatment. These findings suggest that there was a high need for dental treatment in the Infantry Battalions of Malaysian TA Regiments and the service must be made available to cater to the needs.

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