

Fluorosis prevalence among schoolchildren in a fluoridated community in Malaysia

Type: Article

Abstract:

Objectives This study aims to assess the magnitude of the problem Of fluorosis among 10-11 year old schoolchildren in a fluoridated area in Malaysia. **Methods** An analytical cross-sectional design was adopted. Sampling of subjects was by a 2-stage systematic random sampling technique in Selangor, a fully fluoridated area. 1,343 10-11 year olds were assessed for fluorosis using the Dean's index. **Results** The prevalence of fluorosis was 58.7% (788 subjects); 478 (35.6%) subjects exhibited very mild fluorosis, 196 (14.6%) mild, 102 (7.6%) moderate, 12 (0.9%) severe and 555 (41.3%) no fluorosis. Tooth prevalence was 30.1%. Overall, the Community Fluorosis Index (CFI) was 0.96 and ranged from 0.23 to 1.72. Fifteen out of 30 schools had CFI > 1.0 (medium public health significance). **Conclusions** The prevalence of dental fluorosis in Malaysia (mostly very mild to mild) at 58.7% is indicative of slightly above optimal levels of exposure. There were pockets of areas where fluorosis were of medium public health significance (CFI > 1.0). It must be cautioned that, fluorosis if not monitored closely, can become an increasing Public health concern.

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