

## Evaluation of the Systemic and Dental Conditions of Patients Applying to the Periodontology Clinic: A Retrospective Study

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### Abstract

**Background:** This study aimed to evaluate the demographic characteristics, dental and medical information and habits of the patients who applied to the periodontology clinic in the written anamnesis forms routinely filled.

**Materials and Methods:** 1499 individuals aged between 13 and 75 who applied to Adıyaman University Faculty of Dentistry Department of Periodontology between 1 January 2018 and 3 March 2021 were included in the study. The patients' demographic data and systemic and dental conditions were obtained from anamnesis forms routinely filled in the clinic. Data were evaluated statistically.

**Results:** Systemic disease was determined in 351 (23.4%) of 1499 patients. It was identified that 37.6% of the individuals with the systemic disease were men and 62.4% were women ( $p=0.037$ ). The most common systemic disease is cardiovascular system disease (men: 58.5%, women: 41.5%). Regular brushing habits were found to be higher in women than in men ( $p<0.001$ ). There was no significant difference between the genders regarding flossing use ( $p>0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** The systemic and dental conditions in dentistry can directly or indirectly affect the treatment procedure to be administered. Therefore, it is important to learn about the systemic and dental needs of the patients.

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**Keywords:** Anamnesis, dental condition, systemic disease.

### Introduction

Today, medical science and technology developments and improving socioeconomic conditions contributed to prolonging life expectancy. Concordantly, the frequency of encountering individuals with systemic diseases is increasing daily (1,2). Since some systemic diseases show oral symptoms, they can cause deterioration of oral and dental health over time. It is necessary to modify and take special precautions in treating individuals with systemic diseases. In the patient whom dentists will treat, it is essential to learn about the current systemic diseases to avoid complications and carry out a safe treatment process. Since oral and dental health is closely related to general health, dentists have an important role in the evaluation of oral hygiene habits

and in providing effective oral hygiene of individuals. For this reason, taking detailed systemic and dental anamnesis in a patient who needs dental treatment and asking for medical consultation when necessary should be the first step in planning the treatment (3).

Anamnesis is to learn about the individual's current or possible systemic diseases, the drugs used, and the reasons for presenting to the clinic to reach the diagnosis and administer the proper treatment. It can be obtained using written, oral, or these two methods together (4, 5). Filling the pre-prepared forms by the patient provides convenience to the physician and allows archiving of anamnesis information. In anamnesis forms, the patient's personal information, presenting complaint, history of the criticism, medical history, and current health status should be information. In general, in the medical history

of the individual, their health, current or previous diseases, drugs used, allergies, and habits such as smoking and alcohol are questioned (6).

This retrospective study aims to evaluate the demographic characteristics, dental and medical information, and habits of the patients who applied to the periodontology clinic in the written anamnesis forms they filled out routinely before the treatment.

## Materials and Methods

Ethics committee approval was obtained for the study from Adiyaman University, Faculty of Dentistry, Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee with the decision numbered 2021/08-27. In the study, anamnesis forms of 1499 people (863 women, 636 men) aged 13-75 years, applied to Adiyaman University Faculty of Dentistry Department of Periodontology between January 1, 2018 and March 3, 2021, were evaluated retrospectively. Written forms, routinely used in the periodontology clinic and filled by the patients before the treatment, were used in the study. Standard anamnesis forms contain patients' age, gender, body mass index (BMI), education status, reasons for presenting to the clinic, systemic disease, drugs used, allergies, smoking and alcohol consumption, and dental situation. Existing systemic diseases were classified as follows: cardio-vascular system diseases (hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and other diseases), endocrine system diseases (diabetes, thyroid gland diseases, other diseases), gastro-intestinal system diseases (ulcer, viral hepatitis, liver diseases and other diseases), respiratory system diseases (asthma, COPD and other diseases), blood diseases (anemia, leukemia and other diseases), rheumatological diseases (rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases), neurological diseases (epilepsy and other diseases), psychiatric diseases (panic attacks and other psychiatric diseases), malignancies (colon cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer and lymphoma). Those who have more than one disease. We evaluated the dental conditions with the answers as 'Yes/No' to the questions in Table 1.

## Statistical Analysis

The conformity of the variables to the normal distribution was examined with the Shapiro-Wilk test. Continuous variables were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard

deviation, median (min:max) values, and categorical variables were defined as n (%). The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the two groups according to the normality test results. Pearson Chi-Square test and Fisher-Freeman-Halton test were used to compare categorical variables. The SPS 21.0 program (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) was used for statistical analysis, and  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## Results

Anamnesis form of 1499 patients who applied to our periodontology clinic between January 1, 2018 and March 3, 2021, were evaluated retrospectively. It was determined that 57.6% (n=863) were women and 42.4% (n=636) were men of patients aged between 13-75 years. The BMI values of the individuals were determined as  $25.11 \pm 4.89$  in women and  $25.59 \pm 4.11$  in men. BMI in men was found to be statistically significantly higher than in women ( $p < 0.001$ ). When the educational status, smoking and alcohol use were evaluated, educational level, smoking and alcohol use were found to be higher in the men group ( $p < 0.001$ ). Allergy and drug use rates were similar in both groups. 78.7% (n=1180) of the individuals stated their complaints in writing. The patient's distribution of application reasons was similar in the two groups. The systemic disease was determined in 351 (23.4%) of 1499 participants. It was identified that 37.6% of the individuals with the systemic disease were men and 62.4% were women. Systemic disease in women was statistically higher than in men ( $p = 0.037$ ). When the distribution of systemic diseases was examined, there was no statistically significant difference between the genders ( $p = 0.060$ ). The most common systemic diseases were cardiovascular and endocrine diseases (Table 2).

The dental anamnesis information of the patients was evaluated based on the answers to the questions in Table 1. The regular brushing habits in women are higher than in men ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant difference between the genders regarding flossing use ( $p > 0.05$ ). 62.9% of the individuals who answered yes to the question "Do you have any bleeding problems when brushing or flossing your teeth?" were women and 37.1% were men. This difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). 61.8% of the 842 individuals who answered yes to the question "Do you feel pain on cold, hot, sweet ingestion or pressure on your teeth?" were

women and 38.2% were men. This difference was statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). The rate of dry mouth complaints in women was statistically higher than in men (respectively; 63.3%, 36.7%,  $p = 0.010$ ). The rate of toothache in women was higher than in men (respectively; 55.3%, 44.7%,  $p = 0.019$ ). Of the 149 women and 74 men stated that they made a clicking sound from their jaws when they bit. This rate which was higher in women, was statistically significant ( $p = 0.002$ ). Of the 532 individuals who reported having complaints about their gingiva, 325 were women and 207 were men ( $p = 0.041$ ) (Table 3).

Individuals were divided into three classes according to age and four classes according to their educational status. Further analyzes were performed for the relationship of dental status with age and education level. 49.8% of 962 individuals who answered yes to the question "Do you brush your teeth regularly?" are between the ages of 26-45. Regular brushing habits were found to be significantly higher in the middle age group ( $p < 0.001$ ). Moreover, it was determined that regular brushing habits increased as long as the educational status ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant difference in the distribution of individuals' floss use according to age groups ( $p = 0.782$ ). However, floss use was found to be statistically significantly higher in individuals with a high level of education ( $p < 0.001$ ). It was found that the highest rate of bleeding in the gingiva while brushing or flossing is in the 26-45 age range ( $p < 0.001$ ). The answers given to the question "Do you have mouth dryness?" were evaluated according to age distribution and educational status, and statistically significant differences were found between the groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). Data on systemic disease status and smoking were analyzed in Table 5. There was no statistically significant difference between the groups ( $p = 0.522$ ).

**Table 1.** Dental questions in the anamnesis form.

Question 1. Do you brush your teeth regularly?
Question 2. Do you use dental floss?
Question 3. Do you bleed when you brush or floss your teeth?
Question 4. Do you have pain in your teeth from cold, hot, sweet or pressure?
Question 5. Have you ever been treated for your gingiva?
Question 6. Do you have dry mouth?
Question 7. Does food constantly get stuck between two teeth?
Question 8. Have you ever had wire treatment (orthodontic)?
Question 9. Do you currently have any pain in your teeth?
Question 10. Do you have ear or neck pain?
Question 11. Do you make a clicking sound from your jaws when you bite?
Question 12. Is teeth grinding or bruxism present?
Question 13. Do you often have sores (ulcers) in your mouth?
Question 14. Do you have trouble with halitosis?
Question 15. Have you taken an active blow to the head, teeth or jaw?
Question 16. Do you have any complaints about your gingiva?
Question 17. Do you have prostheses and implants in your mouth?

**Table 2.** Distribution of data to anamnesis questions by gender.

Anamnesis questions		Women n=863	Men n=636	p
<b>BMI</b>		24.6(13.8:46,9)	25.6(13.5:38.8)	<b>0.001<sup>a</sup></b>
Mean ± Standard Deviation and median (min:max)		25.11±4,89	25.59±4,11	
<b>Educational Status</b> n (%)	No	127(69.4)	56(30.6)	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>b</sup></b>
	Primary education	282(61.2)	179(38.8)	
	High school	242(56.4)	187(43.6)	
	University	212(49.8)	214(50.2)	
<b>Reason for Application</b> n (%)	Caries	53(64.6)	29(35.4)	0.141 <sup>b</sup>
	Gingiva	392(57.9)	285(42.1)	
	Pain	106(63.5)	61(36.5)	
	Other	134(52.8)	120(47.2)	
	Unspecified	178(55.8)	141(44.2)	
<b>Drug Used</b> n (%)	Yes	150(59.1)	104(40.9)	0.600 <sup>b</sup>
	No	713(57.3)	532(42.7)	
<b>Allergy</b> n (%)	No	819(57.2)	612(42.8)	0.135 <sup>c</sup>
	Dust	10(50)	10(50)	
	Food	3(50)	3(50)	
	Medicine	31(73.8)	11(26.2)	
<b>Smoke</b> n (%)	Yes	99(30.4)	227(69.6)	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>b</sup></b>
	No	764(65.1)	409(34.9)	
<b>Alcohol</b> n (%)	Yes	7(14.9)	40(85.1)	<b>&lt;0.001<sup>b</sup></b>
	No	856(59)	596(41.0)	
<b>Systemic Disease</b> n (%)	Cardiovascular diseases	38(58.5)	27(41.5)	0.060 <sup>c</sup>
	Endocrinesystem diseases	33(53.2)	29(46.8)	
	Gastro-intestinal diseases	34(58.6)	24(41.4)	
	Respiratorysystem diseases	29(54.7)	24(41.4)	
	Blood diseases	20(87)	3(13)	
	Rheumatological diseases	2(66.7)	1(33.3)	
	Neurological diseases	3(42.9)	4(57.1)	
	Psychological diseases	11(84.6)	2(15.4)	
	Malignancies	1(50)	1(50)	

	No Disease*	644(56.1)	504(43.9)	
	Multiple diseases	48(73.8)	17(26.2)	
<b>SystemicDisease</b> n (%)	Yes	219(62.4)	132(37.6)	<b>0.037<sup>b</sup></b>
	No	644(56.1)	504(43.9)	

BMI:Body mass index; Median (min:max); mean  $\pm$  standard deviation and n(%) were used to define the variables; a: Mann-Whitney U test; b: Pearson Chi-Squaretest; c: Fisher-Freeman-Halton test. The variable indicated as \* is not included in the comparison.

**Table 3.** Distribution of answers to dental questions by gender.

Questions		n	Women n (%)	Men n (%)	p
<b>Question1</b>	Yes	962	607(63.1)	355(36.9)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
	No	537	256(47.7)	281(52.3)	
<b>Question2</b>	Yes	171	107(62.6)	64(37.4)	0.160
	No	1328	756(56.9)	572(43.1)	
<b>Question 3</b>	Yes	847	533(62.9)	314(37.1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
	No	652	330(50.6)	322(49.4)	
<b>Question 4</b>	Yes	842	520(61.8)	322(38.2)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
	No	657	343(52.2)	314(47.8)	
<b>Question 5</b>	Yes	300	187(62.3)	113(37.7)	0.062
	No	1199	676(56.4)	523(43.6)	
<b>Question 6</b>	Yes	371	235(63.3)	136(36.7)	<b>0.010</b>
	No	1128	628(55.7)	500(44.3)	
<b>Question 7</b>	Yes	811	454(56)	357(44)	0.176
	No	688	409(59.4)	279(40.6)	
<b>Question8</b>	Yes	105	70(66.7)	35(33.3)	0.051
	No	1394	793(56.9)	601(43.1)	
<b>Question 9</b>	Yes	553	340(61.5)	213(38.5)	<b>0.019</b>
	No	946	523(55.3)	423(44.7)	
<b>Question 10</b>	Yes	266	185(69.5)	81(30.5)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
	No	1233	678(55)	555(45)	
<b>Question 11</b>	Yes	223	149(66.8)	74(33.2)	<b>0.002</b>

	<i>No</i>	1276	714(56)	562(44)	
<b>Question 12</b>	<i>Yes</i>	335	204(60.9)	131(39.1)	0.162
	<i>No</i>	1164	659(56.6)	505(43.4)	
<b>Question 13</b>	<i>Yes</i>	209	135(64.6)	74(35.4)	<b>0.027</b>
	<i>No</i>	1290	728(56.4)	562(43.6)	
<b>Question 14</b>	<i>Yes</i>	500	303(60.6)	197(39.4)	0.093
	<i>No</i>	999	560(56.1)	439(43.9)	
<b>Question 15</b>	<i>Yes</i>	171	105(61.4)	66(38.6)	0.281
	<i>No</i>	1328	758(57.1)	570(42.9)	
<b>Question 16</b>	<i>Yes</i>	532	325(61.1)	207(38.9)	<b>0.041</b>
	<i>No</i>	967	538(55.6)	429(44.4)	
<b>Question 17</b>	<i>Yes</i>	234	125(53.4)	109(46.6)	0.162
	<i>No</i>	1265	738(58.3)	527(41.7)	

Median (min:max), mean  $\pm$  standard deviation and n(%) were used to define the variables;a: Mann-Whitney U test; b: Pearson Chi-Square; c:Fisher-Freeman-Haltonest.The variable indicated as \* is not included in the comparison.

**Table 4.** Relationships between dental questions and age and educational status.

Age and educational status		Question 1		Question 2		Question 3		Question 6	
		n (%)		n (%)		n (%)		n (%)	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Age	13-25	279 (28.0)	115 (21.4)	48 (28.1)	346 (26.1)	228 (26.9)	166 (25.5)	83 (22.4)	311 (27.6)
	26-45	479 (49.8)	257 (47.9)	84 (49.1)	652 (49.1)	447 (52.8)	289 (44.3)	174 (46.9)	562 (49.8)
	46-75	204 (21.2)	165 (30.7)	39 (22.8)	330 (24.8)	172 (20.3)	197 (30.2)	114 (30.7)	255 (22.6)

	p*	<b>0.001</b>		0.782		<b>0.001</b>		<b>0.004</b>	
<b>Educational Status</b>	No	98(10.2)	85(15.8)	16(9.4)	167(12.6)	107(12.6)	76(11.7)	44(11.9)	139(12.3)
	Primary education	254 (26.4)	207 (38.5)	35 (20.4)	426 (32.1)	246 (29)	215 (33)	137 (36.9)	324 (28.7)
	High school	284 (29.5)	145 (27)	40 (23.4)	389 (29.2)	245 (28.9)	184 (28.2)	101 (27.2)	328 (29.1)
	University	326 (33.9)	100 (18.7)	80 (46.8)	346 (26.1)	249 (29.5)	177 (27.1)	89 (24)	337 (29.9)
	p*	<b>&lt;0.001</b>		<b>&lt;0.001</b>		0.414		<b>0.019</b>	

n (%) was used to define the variables and the Pearson Chi-square test (p\*) was used for comparisons

**Table 5.** The relationship between smoking and the presence of systemic disease.

		<b>Smoking</b>		<b>p*</b>
		n (%)		
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>Systemic Disease</b>	Yes	72(20.5)	279(79.5)	0.522
	No	254(22.1)	894(77.9)	

n(%) was used to define the variables and the Pearson Chi-square test (p\*) was used for comparisons.

## DISCUSSION

Taking anamnesis in dentistry or evaluating the patient's general health before any dental procedures is

important to minimize or prevent possible complications and risks (4). In this study, anamnesis forms of patients who applied to Adıyaman University Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Periodontology for treatment were retrospectively analyzed. In studies conducted in different populations, the prevalence of systemic disease in patients applying to dentistry was examined. It was determined that the rate of individuals with systemic disease ranged from 12.2% to 51.2% (1,7,8). In our country, it was found to be 13.18% in the study of Gülsün et al.(9) 24.1% in the study of Altan et al.(10) and 24% in the study of Şener et al.(11) We found the presence of systemic disease as 23.4% in our study. We think that factors such as study design, number of individuals included in the study, disease categories, age, gender and socio-economic status may be the reason for the different rates in the results of the studies. In some studies, the prevalence of systemic disease was found to be higher in women than in men (2,9,12). The incidence rate of systemic disease was found to be higher in women than in men in our study, as in the literature. It is suggested that the higher incidence of systemic disease in women may be related to the fact that women have more regular health check-ups and therefore have more medical data recorded. In addition, the increase in smoking and obesity rates in women may have caused an

increase in systemic problems (9). The most common diseases are cardiovascular, endocrine and gastrointestinal system diseases, respectively (13).

Smoking and alcohol use are associated with many systemic diseases and cancers, it is also known to be a major risk factor for periodontal disease (14). According to the 2019 data of the “Health Research in Turkey” announced by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), the rate of smoking;are 41.3% in men and 14.9% in women.The rate of alcohol use was reported as 23.3% in men and 6.6% in women (15). In our study, the smoking rate was found to be 35.6% in men and 11.5% in women, and alcohol use was 6.2% in men and 0.8% in women.

Determination of oral-dental health status and habits is necessary both for the prevention, control and treatment of oral health and dental problems and for good general health. In this study, individuals’ oral-dental health status and habits were evaluated according to their Yes/No answers to the questions in the anamnesis form. According to the results of our study, 63.1% of the individuals who brush their teeth regularly are women and 36.9% are men. Similarly, Hamashaet al. (16) found in a study that the percentage of regular brushing of women was higher than that of men. When the regular brushing rates were examined according to age group and education level, we found the highest rate (49.8%) in the 26-45 age group and (33.9%) among the university graduates according to education status. Olusile et al. (17) reported that the highest rate of regular brushing (26.6%) was in the 30-39 age groups and that regular brushing rates increased as the educational level increased. Melo et al.(18) in their survey study with 1102 individuals, it was reported that floss use was higher in women (29.3%) than in men (17.6%). In our study, there was no significant difference statistically, but floss use is higher in women. In a study conducted in Iran, floss use was reported higher in the 35-44 age group and in individuals with a high level of education (19). We found higher that floss use is more common in the 26-45 age group and university graduates in our study, like the literature. In a study conducted with 519 individuals in Riyadh, 124 (49.8%) men and 115 (43.4%) women reported bleeding problems while brushing their teeth (16). In our study, “Do you have any bleeding problems when brushing or flossing your teeth? was answered the question as yes by 533 (62.9%) women and 314 (37.1 %) men. In a survey study, 67.4% of men and 72.3% of women reported that they felt pain in their teeth and

gingiva (18). In another study, there was no significant difference between genders regarding gingival complaints (20). In our study, 61.5% of those who reported pain in their teeth/gingiva were women and 38.5% were men. Melo et al.(18) found that women had more gingival problems. Studies have reported that smoking is associated with systemic diseases such as lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, other cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and osteoporosis (21,22). There was no relation between smoking and systemic disease in our study, contrary to studies in the literature. We consider that the reason for this stem from the sample size of our study being insufficient or the limited population cross-section.

### Conclusion

Our study results showed that the incidence of systemic disease was higher in women in the population studied. It has been determined that the habit of brushing teeth is more regular in women than in men. But, the limitations of our study are that the information given by our patients is self-reported and the study was conducted in a single center. Therefore, studies with a similar design, multicenter and larger population are needed.

**Conflict of Interest:** No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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