various regions of Azerbaijan, were examined by calibrated dentists using WHO criteria. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Azerbaijan Medical University. Data collection tool was a pre-tested interviewer administered questionnaires and analysis was done with SPSS version 22.

RESULTS: During study 85% of children were satisfied with appearance of their teeth, 12% avoided smiling because of the appearance of their teeth, 5% left class due to toothache; 62% visited a dentist in the last 12 months; 17% went to the dentist due to toothache. 32% "never" or "sometimes" brushed their teeth; 48% brushed their teeth twice a day, 37% used Fluoride-containing toothpaste; 59% didn't know what type of toothpaste they use to clean their teeth; 8% smoked occasionally or constantly; 34% of children drank sweet drinks (Coca-Cola, etc.) every day, 79% of children consumed sweet foods.

The OHI-S hygiene index for 12-years-olds was 1.6, and for 15-year-olds - 1.9., the index of bleeding gums increased in 15-year-olds up to 49%.

CONCLUSION(S): The obtained data indicates that the oral health is an important criteria for quality of life also in schoolchildren and the system of therapeutic and preventive dental care for the children's population requires major improvements.

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Clinical consequences of untreated dental caries among Libyan schoolchildren

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AIM or PURPOSE: The study aimed to determine the prevalence and sociodemographic distribution of clinical consequences of untreated dental caries in 12-year-old schoolchildren in Benghazi, Libya.

MATERIALS and METHOD: The study was conducted as a part of an oral health survey conducted among 12-year-old schoolchildren in Benghazi in 2023. stratified random sample was recruited from private and governmental schools in Benghazi. Clinical consequences of dental caries were measured by PUFA index(Pulp involvement, Ulcer, Fistula and Abscess). The prevalence of the consequences was compared according to gender, parental education and school type. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 25, at $p \geq 0.05$.

RESULTS: Data from 465 children were analysed. dental caries was reported in 58.8% of participants and clinical consequences of dental caries were observed in around a third of them (18.9 % of all participants) as pulp involvement. only one case of fistula and abscess and two cases of ulcer were reported. A higher proportion of dental caries clinical consequences were reported among children from government schools (P= 0.032)and those whose mothers had lower education attainment (P=0.006).

CONCLUSION(S): Clinical consequences of untreated dental caries are relatively high among Libyan school children. The study also demonstrated socio-economic disparities in the clinical consequences of poorer oral health among children from lower social classes. The study highlights the need to establish school programs to reduce the burdens of dental caries consequences and help in tackling oral health inequalities

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Radiographic Assessment of Permanent First Molars in Libyan Subpopulation

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AIM or PURPOSE: First permanent molars (FPMs) are the first permanent teeth to erupt and have a crucial role in dentofacial growth and occlusion. Anecdotal evidence suggests an increased loss of FPMs. Therefore, we aim to radiographically determine the prevalence of missing and decayed FPMs. In addition, we aim to investigate any patterns related to age and gender among Libyan sub-populations.

MATERIALS-METHOD: Applying inclusion and exclusion criteria, a total of 931 panoramic images from July 2021 to August 2023, were included. Divided into 2 age groups (A: 9-39 years and B: 39 years and above). 2 trained intern dentists, 1 final-year dental student and an Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologist evaluated the images under standardised conditions. Intra-observer repeatability and inter-observer reliability 15% of randomly selected images.

RESULTS: 32% of FPMs were missing and 17% were decayed. Missing upper and lower FPMs have significance with age OR=0.1136, 95% CI 0.0788,0.1636 and OR= 0.1165, 95% CI 0.0754,0.1806 respectively, while only upper missing teeth had significance with gender OR= 0.7, 95% CI 0.647, 0.942.

CONCLUSION(S): High missing and decayed prevalences among this Libyan sub-population are highlighted with significant age and gender association, suggesting importance of preventive practices to reduce extractions and to raise awareness and promote restorative dentistry to maintain proper health and function of the stomatognathic system.

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Prevalence and Factors of Peri-apical Lesions in Primary Molars

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AIM or PURPOSE: This retrospective study aimed to investigate the prevalence and associated factors of peri-apical lesions in primary molars among children aged 4-14 years.

MATERIALS and METHOD: Panoramic x-rays were obtained from 613 pediatric patients (306 girls, 307 boys) attending the Istanbul Gelisim University Dentistry Faculty Pediatric Dentistry Department between 2023 and 2024. The periapical

index scoring system was utilized following training on a randomly selected set of panoramic x-rays. Peri-apical lesions were identified by a single researcher, with a randomly selected subgroup of 100 patients independently assessed by a second researcher to establish inter-rater reliability. Teeth with periapical lesions were categorized as caries-free, carious, filled, or pulpotomy/pulpectomy. Data analysis was performed using SPSS software, with statistical significance set at $p<0.05$. Ethical approval was obtained from the Ethics Committee at Istanbul Gelisim University.

RESULTS: Among the 613 pediatric patients, peri-apical lesions were observed in 310 individuals (approximately one in every two children) across their primary molars. A total of 3,514 primary molars were assessed, demonstrating substantial inter-rater reliability (Cohen's kappa coefficient: 0.90, 95% CI: 0.82-0.98). Out of these, 877 molars (25%) exhibited peri-apical lesions. Notably, among the primary molars affected by peri-apical lesions, the majority (82%) were untreated carious teeth, followed by those that had pulpotomy/pulpectomy (12%), while only a small proportion were filled (4%).

CONCLUSION(S): Our study revealed a significant prevalence of peri-apical lesions in primary molars among children, predominantly associated with untreated caries. Early intervention and preventive dental care are crucial to mitigate the development of such lesions.

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Hypomineralised Second Primary Molars: Prevalence and Etiology in Aydın

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AIM or PURPOSE: To determine prevalence and etiology of hypomineralisation of second primary molars (HSPM) in children aged between 3 and 5, in Aydın.

MATERIALS and METHOD: The study has been conducted from October 2023 to February 2024. This research has been approved by the institution's ethics committee (Protocol-No:2023/07). A total of 1035 children, aged between 3 and 5 years-old, participated in the study from 16 randomly selected kindergartens across 5 districts of Aydın. HSPM findings were recorded using the modified EAPD MIH Decision Criteria Index. To determine the etiology, a questionnaire consisting of questions about prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal factors was filled out by parents. Descriptive statistics and Pearson chi-square tests were used.

RESULTS: The mean age was 4.66±0.53 years, the prevalence of HSPM was 4.4% on patient level and 2.31% on the teeth level. White, cream, yellow or brown demarcated opacities were the most common lesion type (69.79%); the most affected jaw was the mandible (71.87%) and the mean number of affected teeth among the children with HSPM was 2.89±2.03. Considering the etiology of HSPM, maternal febrile illnesses during pregnancy and children's febrile illnesses during perinatal and postnatal periods, along with nutritional supplement use, preterm birth, or breastfeeding duration, did not show statistical significance in HSPM development ($p>0.05$).

CONCLUSION(S): Results of this study showed that prevalence of HSPM (4.4%) in Aydın was similar to the worldwide prevalence (6.8%). HSPM had many possible causes, to more clearly determine the etiology of HSPM more research is needed.

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Preventive Dentistry » Interceptive Orthodontics

Research - Accepted: Oral Presentation

Balancing and compensating primary tooth extractions: Paediatric dentists' approaches

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AIM or PURPOSE: This study assessed UK paediatric dentists' demographics, practice characteristics, and adherence to national guidelines for primary tooth extractions (BCEs). It also explored their referral patterns to orthodontists for BCEs and examined their clinical preferences across various scenarios involving BCEs in primary teeth.

MATERIALS and METHOD: In this cross-sectional survey, British Society of Paediatric Dentistry members received e-mail invitations. Participants accessed a pre-tested, self-administered electronic questionnaire via a secure website. Most questions included frequency options (Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Frequently, Always), covering clinical scenarios. Data analysis relied on descriptive statistics, presented as percentages. To compare percentages within a single population/sample, a Pearson Chi-square goodness-of-fit (GOF) test with post hoc pairwise binomial analysis and Bonferroni adjustments was conducted.

RESULTS: Out of 288 invited specialists, 67 (23.3%) completed the questionnaire. The majority were females (82%), working mainly in secondary care (77.3%). Most supported guidelines for primary tooth extractions (81.8%). Notably, 30 paediatric dentists (44.8%) encountered BCEs "Frequently" with 22 (32.8%) performing over 40 BCEs in the past year. Additionally, 29 (43.3%) reported frequent guideline compliance. A significant majority (86.1%) "Never" (44.6%) or "Rarely" (41.5%) referred to orthodontists. Statistical analysis revealed significant differences in referral proportions ($p < 0.001$) and varied decision-making for BCEs across scenarios ($p < 0.001$), except for the early loss of a primary canine in a spaced arch.

CONCLUSION(S): The study found significant variation in decision-making regarding BCEs across clinical scenarios among paediatric dentists. While there is high adherence to guidelines for BCEs, there's limited interdisciplinary collaboration.

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