

Oral Damages: A Common Phenomenon in Covid-19 Survivors

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The new research revealed that more than 80% of COVID-19 survivors had damage to the oral cavity or surrounding structures. The manifestations were including abnormal salivary gland dilation (salivary gland ectasia) and dry mouth. Interestingly, the researchers found that these signs and symptoms can appear months after recovery from the disease.

The researchers believe that because the oral cavity is an excellent environment for SARS-CoV-2 infection, it could be invaded by this virus; hence, the damage can persist in this area. However, they were not sure the oral manifestations could be the direct consequences of the virus invasion.

The most significant manifestation in the COVID-19 survivors was salivary gland ectasia which affected 38% of the patients, especially the older ones. Moreover, some of these patients suffered from dry mouth, and 18% had masticatory muscle weakness. Interestingly, those patients with dry mouth were older and had diabetes or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, while the younger had complained of masticatory muscle weakness.

Other reported complaints in low percentages were facial pain, nerve conditions, temporomandibular joint abnormalities (7%), facial tingling (3%), and trigeminal neuralgia (3%), white tongue, oral ulcers, and altered taste and smell. In one case, facial asymmetry was reported.

“It is more likely that oral involvement occurs as a consequence of the host inflammatory response, which is responsible for most morbidity and mortality in COVID-19”, the authors noted.

Recently, in the pediatric dentistry department at Sepideh Dental Clinic, we encountered several oral complications in pediatric patients who had Coronavirus disease a year ago. The range of their age was 8 to 17. Their parents noted the complications appeared 4 months after the children’s recovery. Parents had complaints about masticatory muscle weakness, white tongue, oral ulcers, altered taste, and smell. These manifestations are still existing but to a lower extent.

The final words are howsoever the researchers try to find the relationship of oral conditions that appear after the patient’s recovery from Covid 19, but there are so many questions to be answered. Therefore, there is a need for contributions of physicians and dentists worldwide to share the scientific knowledge and findings regarding this new disease [1,2].

Bibliography

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