

Information

Comparison of Oral Health Status in Adult Populations of Japan and South Korea

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Abstract: The aim of this study was to compare the oral health status in adult populations of Japan and South Korea.

Data were obtained from the report on the Survey of Dental Diseases in 1999 and 2005, carried out by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the National Oral Health Survey, carried out in 2000 and 2006 by the South Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare. Differences in tooth and periodontal conditions, as described in the DMF index and Community Periodontal Index (CPI), between Japan in 1999 and South Korea in 2000 and between Japan in 2005 and South Korea in 2006 were compared. As the criteria of the DMF index differed in the two countries, the results from South Korea were modified to meet the Japanese criteria using the raw data of the National Oral Health Survey in South Korea.

The mean number of decayed teeth was slightly higher in Japan than in South Korea in both sexes of most age groups. Japanese adults exhibited a markedly greater number of filled teeth than South Korean adults. The proportion of CPI code 3 or 4 with respect to the highest CPI code score and the mean number of sextants of CPI code 3 or 4 were greater in Japan than in South Korea in both sexes of most age groups.

These results suggest that Japanese adults tend to have more dental caries and periodontal disease than South Korean adults.

Key words: Oral health status, Dental caries, Periodontal disease, Japan, South Korea