Abstracts

Normal salivary production using a swab method in clinical settings

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Objectives:
The purpose of the study was to generate age- and gender based normative data for unstimulated salivary flow rate (uSFR) by means of a swab method, and to provide preliminary results of using the test in patients suspected of reduced salivary function.

Methods:
130 healthy participants without subjective xerostomia or suspicion of reduced salivation were recruited. Measurements of unstimulated salivary flow rate (uSFR) were conducted three times per subject and mean uSFR was calculated for the entire population and stratified according to age and gender. The method was applied in a pilot population of 25 patients suffering from either Sjögren’s syndrome or had underwent irradiation of the head and neck.

Results:
Mean uSFR in the healthy group was 0.808 g/minute (range: 0.165-2.442). Not significant trends towards declining uSFR with increasing age and higher uSFR in women were seen. Mean uSFR in the patients was 0.429 g/minute (range: 0.111-1.448), which was significantly lower than normative values. Use of xerogenic drugs correlated to lower uSFR.

Conclusion:
Age and gender based normative data of uSFR was presented using a fast and readily implementable swab test. The test was able to objectively verify hyposalivation among patients suffering from Sjögren’s syndrome or having been exposed to head and neck radiation.

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