ABSTRACT

Background. The attitude of Indonesian people towards dental problems is not as good as we expected it to be. This poor attitude is reflected in the growing prevalence rate of caries. At the age of 12, most adolescence experience a phase of mixed dentition, therefore a poor attitude towards their dental hygiene could affect their permanent dentition. In this study, attitude will be investigated from its 3 main components, cognitive (knowledge), affective (emotion), and conation.

Purpose. The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence rate of the cognitive component, affective component, conation component of a 12 years old children faced with dental caries accompanied with acute pulpitis in Sawahan district Surabaya. Method. This research uses simple random sampling technique that are suitable adhering to the criteria. These study population is then asked to fill out a Lickert scale questionnaire. Results. The cognitive components prevalence rate in a 12 years old children sample when faced with dental caries accompanied with acute pulpitis that falls into the “good” category is 84%, medium 16%, and none falls into the “poor” category. For the affective component, the prevalence rate for “good” is 45%, “medium” 55%, and 0% is “poor”. For the conation component, “good” 85%, “medium” 15%, and “poor” 0%. Conclusion. The cognitive aspect of the average 12 years old children when faced with dental caries accompanied with acute pulpitis can be graded as “Fair” while its affective can be graded “less than satisfactory”.

Key words: attitude components, 12 years old children, acute pulpitis