ABSTRACT

Background. Dental caries is a process that may take place on any tooth surface in the oral cavity where dental plaque is allowed to develop over a period of time. In children with mental retardation, have an increased caries in common with the people in general. It can be caused by ability to maintain oral hygiene, food and beverages consumed everyday, habit of mouth breathing, etc. Purpose. This research had purpose to determine the prevalence of caries and the level of treatment needs in children with mental retardation at age 8-12 years old in some special school for children with mental retardation in Surabaya. Methods. This research was done in 30 students of AKW Kumara I and AKW Kumara II special school for children with mental retardation. Caries was checked with sounding. Results. The result showed that def-t index in students of AKW Kumara I and AKW Kumara II was moderate and low. And DMF-T index was very low and moderate. Conclusion. Most students will require fillings or other treatments of conservation in deciduous teeth and permanent teeth. This treatment is needed to prevent a more severe caries and disorders of the mastication system further.

Key words: prevalence of caries, mental retardation, treatment needs.