

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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None declared.

Prevalence and severity of Early Childhood Caries in Libyan Children - A Meta-analysis

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Review question / Objective: P - Libyan children living in Libya, less than 6 years of age; I - No intervention; C - No control; O - Prevalence and severity of Early Childhood Caries in Libyan Children; S - Systematic review and Meta-analysis.
Condition being studied: Early Childhood Caries.
Study designs to be included: Inclusion: Cross sectional studies / Exclusion: Non-comparative studies (case reports and case series); Animal studies. Ex vivo, in vitro, in silico studies; Reviews (traditional reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses).

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 02 October 2022 and was last updated on 02 October 2022 (registration number INPLASY2022100010).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: P - Libyan children living in Libya, less than 6 years of age; I - No intervention; C - No control; O - Prevalence and severity of Early Childhood Caries in Libyan Children; S - Systematic review and Meta-analysis.

Rationale: To assess the prevalence of Early Childhood Caries and the need for

educational intervention to reduce caries rate in children.

Condition being studied: Early Childhood Caries.

METHODS

Search strategy: From inception until current date (PubMed, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Scopus, and

Google Scholar). The searches will be conducted without placing restrictions on language and will be supplemented by reviewing the bibliography in any relevant paper retrieved. Moreover, we plan to contact the responsible author in the event we needed some clarifications on the content of a potentially eligible paper.

Participant or population: Inclusion: Libyan children of 6 years of age and younger living in Libyan / Exclusion: Medically compromised children and special needs

Intervention: No intervention.

Comparator: No comparison.

Study designs to be included: Inclusion: Cross sectional studies / Exclusion: Non-comparative studies (case reports and case series); Animal studies. Ex vivo, in vitro, in silico studies; Reviews (traditional reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses).

Eligibility criteria: Libyan Children (6 years of age and younger) living in Libya.

Information sources: Electronic databases

Main outcome(s): Primarily, outcomes reflecting caries experience in their children (both genders), like dmft, dmfs, percentage free of caries, etc.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Two investigators will assess the risk of bias with the Quality assessment checklist for prevalence studies (adapted from Hoy et al.). Any disagreements will be resolved by discussion.

Strategy of data synthesis: The random effects method for meta-analysis was to be used to combine data using CMA software. To identify the presence and extent of between-study heterogeneity, the overlap of the 95% CI for the results of individual studies will be inspected graphically and the I^2 statistic will be calculated. Significance (α) will set at 0.05, except for the 0.10 used for the heterogeneity tests.

Subgroup analysis: N/A.

Sensitivity analysis: Will be discussed with the statistician if needed.

Language restriction: English language.

Country(ies) involved: United Arab Emirates.

Keywords: Libya; dental health; prevalence; dental caries; early childhood caries; dental decay; nursing caries; DMFT; dmft; preschool; school children in Libya.

Dissemination plans: We intend to publish the research upon completion of the paper.

Contributions of each author:

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