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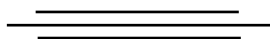
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Effectiveness of Metformin Versus Insulin in Gestational Diabetes

Chinnala Satish¹, Archana Muthyam²

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Abstract

Objective: Gestational Diabetes is a growing concern worldwide due to pregnancy outcome risks. Along with Lifestyle modifications for the prevention and maintenance of euglycemia standard insulin supplementation and oral hypoglycemic drug Metformin is being used for the pharmacological management. This study aims to compare the efficacy of Metformin and Insulin treatment groups.

Methods: This is an Observational comparative study in maternal hyperglycemia subjects prescribed with insulin and metformin for at least three months during their gestation period. Clinical parameters compared are Fasting blood glucose, Postprandial blood glucose, HbA1c, which are analysed and the data is represented in average with standard deviation.

Results: The mean difference between Group I treated with metformin and Group II treated with insulin of Fasting Blood glucose, Post Prandial Blood glucose, HbA1c are -13.94 ± 18.22 mg/dl, -44.16 ± 8.99 mg/dl, $-1.4 \pm 0.2\%$ respectively.

Conclusion: Metformin is less effective than standard Insulin regimen, but is able to maintain Glycemic control.

Keywords: Gestational Diabetes, Metformin, Insulin, HbA1c, Maternal Outcomes, Metabolic syndrome.

Introduction

Maternal hyperglycemia due to insulin deficiency and sensitivity increases the risk of pregnancy outcomes and is a growing concern in gestation.¹⁻⁴ Prenatal outcomes depend on Identification, glycemic control with diet, exercise with or without pharmacological treatment.^{5,6}

Diabetes during pregnancy is increasing worldwide. Some of the important etiological factors are Poor physical activity, Obesity, Imbalanced diet and rising maternal age.⁷

Metformin is a FDA class B in pregnancy category which improves insulin sensitivity, reduce hepatic, increases peripheral glucose uptake and utilization. It readily crosses placenta but do not cause neonatal hypoglycemia as it acts as insulin sensitizer. Human and Animal studies have reported no teratogenic effects.⁸⁻¹³

Range of adverse outcomes in pregnancy are well documented due to hyperglycemia in both mother and offspring which are both short term and long term. Evidence has accumulated to support

offspring complications including Prediabetes, Higher BMI, Metabolic syndrome, Respiratory distress, Preterm birth, macrosomia, birth injury, shoulder dystocia, neonatal hypoglycemia, neonatal unit admission and maternal complications like Pre-eclampsia, Gestational hypertension, shoulder dystocia, polyhydramnios, Caesarean section.¹⁴

Diabetes greatly influences the additional risks during the pregnancy. Glycemic control targeting and measurement of fasting, postprandial blood glucose and HbA_{1c} are to be individualised. To attain better glycemic control effective comparative evidence is required on available management therapeutic options. The aim of the study is to compare the efficacy of Metformin and Insulin in Gestational Diabetes.¹⁵

Materials and Methods

It is a Observational Prospective study carried out in Pregnant women from various OP and IP Departments for 6 months in 2022. The study subjects were included after obtaining verbal informed consent. All 423 Pregnant women diagnosed with gestational diabetes on either Metformin or Insulin for a minimum of three months were included out of which data of 200 subjects have been collected in to two groups. Group I-Parameters of Patients on Metformin treatment for 3 months, Group II - Parameters of Patients on Insulin treatment for 3 months. Clinical parameters included are Fasting, Postprandial blood glucose, Glycated Hemoglobin. The data was analysed using Unpaired t-test in SPSS version 1.0.0.1406 for significance and expressed in Average with standard deviation. A p-value of <0.001 is considered to be significant.

Table 1: Clinical parameters in two groups expressed in Average±SD

Parameter	Group-I	Group-II	Mean Difference	P-Value
Average Age	28.65±5.4	29.24±4.6	NA	-
Fasting Blood Sugars	130.75±30.9 mg/dl	116.81±12.68 mg/dl	-13.94±18.22 mg/dl	<0.001
Post Prandial blood sugars	192.35±45.78 mg/dl	148.19±36.79 mg/dl	-44.16±8.99 mg/dl	<0.001
HbA _{1c}	8.8±1.3%	7.4±1.5%	-1.4±0.2%	<0.001

Results

Subjects on Metformin were considered to Group I and on Insulin to Group II. The average age of the subjects in Group I is 28.65±5.4 years, average Fasting Blood glucose is 130.75±30.9mg/dl, average Post-Prandial Blood glucose is 192.35±45.78mg/dl, The average HbA_{1c} is 8.8±1.3%. The average age of the subjects in Group II is 29.24±4.6 years, average Fasting Blood glucose is 116.81±12.68 mg/dl, average Post Prandial Blood glucose is 148.19±36.79 mg/dl, The average HbA_{1c} is 7.4±1.5%.

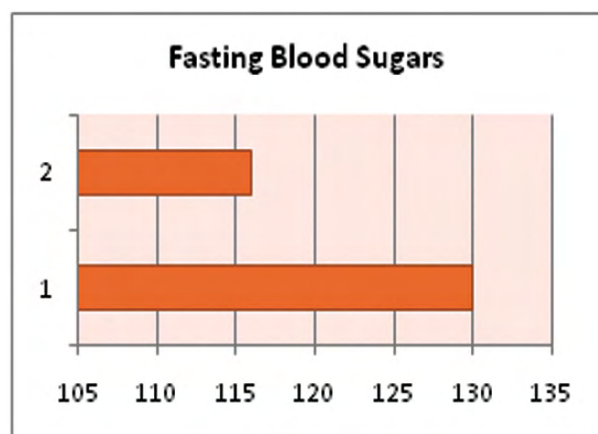


Fig. A: Mean difference of fasting blood glucose in both groups.

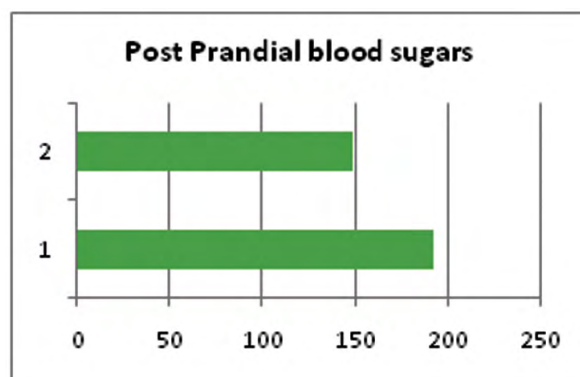


Fig. B: Mean difference of post prandial blood glucose in both groups.

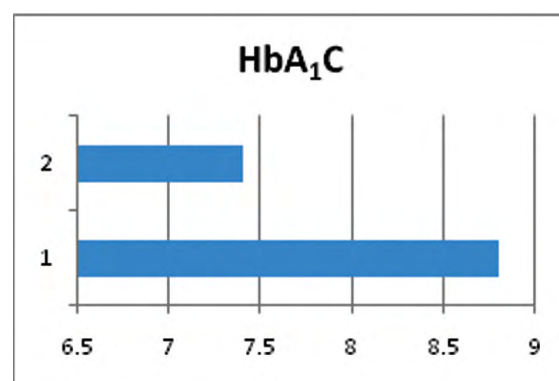


Fig. C: Mean difference of HbA_{1c} in both groups.

The mean difference of Fasting Blood glucose, Post Prandial Blood glucose, HbA1c in Group I and II are -13.94 ± 18.22 mg/dl, -44.16 ± 8.99 mg/dl, $-1.4 \pm 0.2\%$ respectively.

Discussion

Our study results show that Metformin is able to maintain glycemic control but less effective when compared to that of standard insulin therapy.

A study on metformin treated pregnancies compared with insulin treated pregnancies concluded that Metformin is effective when compared to insulin and also reduces neonatal adverse outcome risks.¹⁶

Pharmacotherapeutic characteristics of a prospective randomized control open study revealed that with or without insulin supplementation metformin is an effective and cheap treatment option for gestational diabetes.¹⁷

As metformin crosses placenta, there is limited evidence about safety on the fetus. A retrospective study aimed to compare insulin and metformin pregnancy outcomes data show that when compared to standard insulin therapy there are no associated adverse outcomes due to metformin.¹⁸

According to the results of a systemic review and meta-analysis on randomized controlled trials, glibenclamide was associated with more macrosomia, neonatal hypoglycemia, metformin results were better relative to pregnancy induced hypertension, weight gain, less neonatal hypoglycemia.¹⁹

Limitations of the study includes exclusion of outcomes, short duration and sample size.

Conclusion

There is a need for well-established clinical data in gestational diabetes patient management which helps to control various maternal and fetal adverse outcomes. When compared to standard insulin therapy metformin therapy is less effective but is able to maintain target blood glucose levels.

Conflict of Interest and Financial resources: Nil

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Modified Loub Job: Our Experience

Jacob Antony Chakiath¹, Ravi Kumar Chittoria²

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Abstract

'Modified Loub Job' procedure is a liposuction assisted removal of the fat to reduce the bulk of the foot. It's a reconstructive procedure for congenital condition. The term 'Modified Loub Job' is introduced for the first time in literature. In our study, modified loub job was performed in a subject with left big toe macrodactyly.

Keywords: Loub Job, Foot Macrodactyly, Liposuction.

Introduction

Loub Job is a procedure which injects hyaluronic acid or fat at the level of plantar pads in order to thicken the panicle of the support areas of the foot and thus reduce pain when wearing high heels. It's a purely cosmetic procedure for acquired condition. In this article, we are introducing a 'Modified Loub Job' procedure in which we are performing a liposuction assisted removal of the fat to reduce the bulk of the foot. It's a reconstructive procedure for congenital condition. In our study, modified loub job was performed in a subject with left big toe macrodactyly. Macrodactyly of the foot is a rare congenital abnormality that causes pain, calluses¹, ulcers, difficulties wearing shoes, impairment in ambulatory capacity and gait development, aesthetic issues, and psychological issues²

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted in the Department of Plastic Surgery at a tertiary care centre after getting the departmental ethical committee approval. Informed written consent was taken from the patient for evaluation as well as the clinical photography. The subject was a 12 yr old female presented with increased size the left big toe since the last 11 yrs. Patient mother noticed an increase in the size of the left big toe at 1 yr of age. The size increased progressively as she grows and attained the present size. There is no associated pain. There is no difficulty in walking. There is no trauma history. No similar increase in size elsewhere in the body. No decreased use of the affected limb. No history of any congenital disorders in the family. No history of any vertebral anomalies, anal disorders, heart

disease, organomegaly. Child appears short for age and she has not attained menarche.

Mother had normal course during the child birth which was a full term normal delivery. Mother was 18yr at the time of child birth. Her antenatal period was uneventful. No history of any intake of medications or radiation in the antenatal period.

On local examination of the left leg and foot showed a swelling of the left big toe which was non

pulsatile, non compressible. Skin over the swelling shows no sign of inflammation. (figure 1) Skin over the swelling was pinchable. (figure 2) The range of movements of knee, ankle, toe movements at MTP, PIP, DIP joints were normal. The distal sensation, peripheral pulsations, capillary refill time were normal. The opposite side lower limb was normal. The upper limbs were normal. The gait was normal. The other systemic examinations were within normal limit.



Fig. 1: At the time of presentation - dorsal view



Fig. 2: At the time of presentation - plantar view

Clinical Measurement- preoperative

Measurements	Left	Right
Girth of big toe (at the level of proximal phalanx)	8 cm	6.5cm
Forefoot (at the level of shaft of metatarsal)	19 cm	18 cm
Length of great toe(from MCPJ till tip)	5.5 cm	4cm

Bucket Handle Test- difference in volume 20cm².

Gait test- Normal

Foot Impression of both foot were compared. (figure 3)

Angle of deviation of toe- 15 degree

Inter-metatarsal width ratio- 1.10

Forefoot area ratio- 1.5

Angle of deviation of toe 15 degree

Inter-metatarsal width ratio- 1.001 (figure 6)

Forefoot area ratio- 1.073 (figure 7)



Fig. 3: Foot Impression comparison.



Fig. 4: X ray foot- standing Anteroposterior view

Radiological Measurement – preoperative

X ray Standing Antero-posterior view of both foot. (figure 4)

Measurements (figure 5)	Left	Right
Distal Phalanx	1.64cm	1.52cm
Proximal Phalanx	2.21cm	1.93cm
Metatarsal	4.26cm	4.09cm
Soft tissue thickness	1.21cm	1.08cm
Bone thickness	0.7cm	0.7cm
Inter-metatarsal width	6.59cm	6.58cm
Forefoot area	770865	717984



Fig. 5: X ray measurement of phalanx and metatarsal



Fig. 6: Inter-metatarsal Width Ratio - 1.001

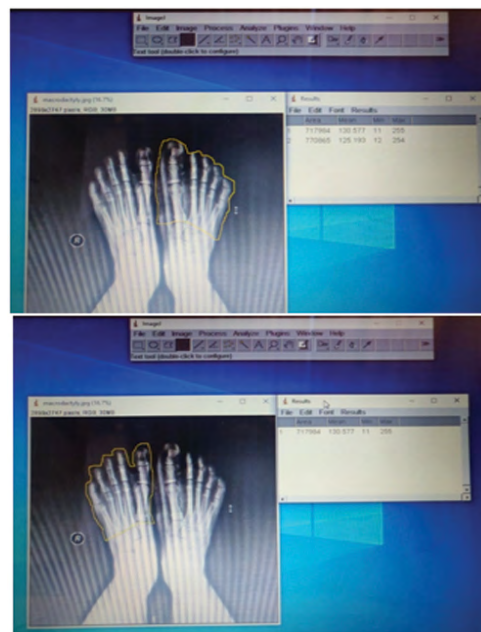


Fig. 7: Forefoot Area Ratio - 1.073



Fig. 8: Left Forefoot volume measurement by MRI

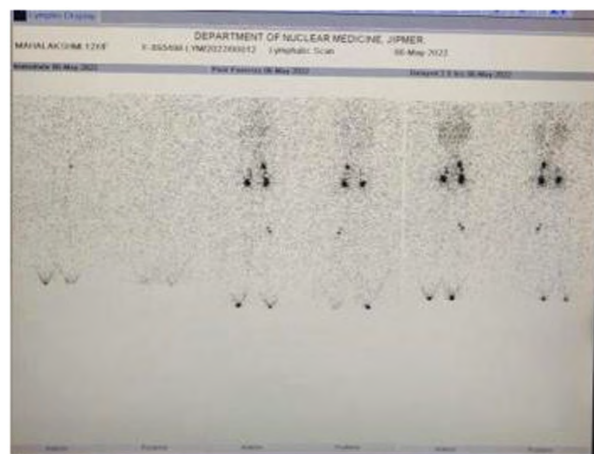


Fig. 9: Lymphoscintigraphy of both lower limb

Reports

MRI and MR angiography- Diffuse enlargement of soft tissue of left big toe with lateral deviation of the toe. Diffuse Hypertrophy of subcutaneous fat around the great toe possibility of Macrodystrophialipomatosis. No bony or vascular involvement. The volume of the left forefoot was 166.97cm³. (figure 8)

USG abdomen- Normal Study

Nerve Conduction Study- Digital Nerves couldn't be evaluated.

Electromyography- Small muscles couldn't be evaluated.

Lymphoscintigraphy- Normal Study.(figure 9)

With this extensive and systematic evaluation,

we could come to a definitive diagnosis of foot macrodactyly without vascular involvement and rule out any association of foot macrodactyly with other congenital anomalies and plan management of foot macrodactyly.

Our treatment plan was to perform staged invasive procedures. As the first stage, we performed liposuction assisted debulking of the soft tissue of the left great toe. Vascular line and creases marked.(figure 10) Tumescence was given and tourniquet applied to reduce the bleeding during procedure. Vertical incision made at the root of the big toe both dorsally and ventrally. 2mm uniplanar liposuction cannula was used for suction assisted liposuction.(figure 11) 2ml of the fat was aspirated. The girth of the left great toe was



Fig. 10: Preoperative marking of crease line

measured immediately after the procedure and noted, which 7 cm. The compression dressing with negative pressure wound therapy given. (figure 12) The wound site assessment was done on the 4th post operative day.

Results

After performing the liposuction assisted debulking of the left great toe, the girth of the left great toe decreased by 1cm. The assessment of the wound on the 6th post operative day showed healthy site with no signs of skin necrosis.(figure 13)

Discussion

The foot is less commonly affected by macrodactyly than the hand. The cause of macrodactyly has yet to be discovered. It's a type of overgrowth caused by a gain of function mutation in the PIK3CA pathway.



Fig. 11: Liposuction assisted debulking

Static and progressive clinical manifestations are the two types of clinical manifestations. Klippel-Trenaunay syndrome, Proteus syndrome, CLOVES syndrome, Ollier's disease, Maffucci syndrome, Milroy's disease, neurofibromatosis, and vascular anomalies needs to be excluded, as were patients with diagnoses of other known overgrowth syndromes or otherwise uncharacterized syndromic presentations of lower extremity enlargement. In 10% of individuals³, macrodactyly is linked with syndactyly, and in a smaller number, polydactyly and cryptorchidism. Macrodactyly may be associated with hernia.

The Loub Job is a new cosmetic treatment which has become a popular and effective way to ease the discomfort of wearing high heels. Named after famous shoe designer, Christian Louboutin, dermal fillers are injected in the balls of the feet which creates an immediate gel-like cushion that soothes the usual ache you feel after too many



Fig. 12: Compression therapy with negative pressure wound therapy



Fig. 13: Wound on 6th post operative day with no skin necrosis

hours teetering in heels. Loub Joe is a pure cosmetic procedure which helps to reduce pain while wearing high and pointed heels.

The goal of surgery in foot macrodactyly is to reduce the size of the foot so that it may be used in regular shoes and the appearance can be enhanced. Young people should have soft tissue reductions, epiphysiodesis, epiphysectomies, osteotomies, and other treatments. Adults⁴⁻⁸ are more prone to undergo shortening operations and arthrodesis. Surgical indications for ray amputation, as previously stated by Bulut et al., were metatarsal involvement, joint immobility, or involvement of several digits.⁹

Liposuction has been used in attempts to “debulk” the fatty adipose tissue in a very few previous studies. But none of the previous studies showed positive results.

In our study, we are introducing a ‘Modified Loub Job’ procedure. It’s a liposuction assisted debulking of the foot. In our case, liposuction assisted debulking was done in the left great toe. It’s a reconstructive procedure for congenital disorders. After performing the liposuction assisted debulking of the left great toe, the girth of the left great toe decreased by 1 cm. The assessment of the wound on the 4th post operative day showed healthy site with no signs of skin necrosis.

Conclusion

The Modified Lob Job was found to be a viable procedure for the initial staged treatment for foot macrodactyly. The term ‘Modified Loub Job’ was first introduced in this article.

Conflicts of interest: None

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Overview on Thalassemia

Gajraj Singh¹, Pranjali Mishra², Jugnu Preveen³, S P Subashini⁴

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Abstract

Thalassemia is an inherited autosomal recessive blood disorder. Which results in excessive destruction of Red blood cells and further leads to anemia. Thalassemia's are prevalent World wide with 16,800 death and 4,39,000 severe cases in 2015. According to 2017 data 80 million are carriers of beta thalassemia, Beta thalassemia is more common in children. Thalassemia is caused by variant or missing genes that affects how the body make hemoglobin. Which people having thalassemia Make less hemoglobin and fewer Circulating red blood cells than normal results in mild or severe anemia.

Keywords: Thalassemia, Hemoglobin, Cooley Anemia, Amniocentesis and Bone marrow transplant.

Introduction

The name thalassemia derived from a combination of two Greek words: Thalassa means the sea (Cooley) and anemia (weak blood) another term found in literature although in frequently is cooley's anemia of the name of Prof. Cooley Thomas, a pediatrician in USA who first described the clinical characteristics of this disorder in patients of Italian Origin. Thalassemia are blood disorder that are inherited from parents to offspring, which patients carry the genes of thalassemia it may be show symptoms in early age or later age that can results in the abnormal formation of hemoglobin and red blood cells being destroyed, which leads to anemia. It is caused by variant or missing genes that affects how the stem cells produced Hemoglobin, In this disorder the shape or size of Red blood cells is

changed or abnormal. Mutation in the DNA of the cells that produce Hemoglobin this hemoglobin involving the HB1 and HB2. This is most commonly inherited in a mendelian recessive fashion, asian, Chinese, African and American ethnicity.

Types

1. Alpha thalassemia
 - Alpha thalassemia minor
 - Alpha thalassemia major
2. Beta Thalassemia
 - Beta thalassemia minor
 - Beta thalassemia major

Clinical Manifestations

Thalassemia clinical features depends upon the types of the thalassemia. In Alpha thalassemia

may have mild anemia and typical asymptomatic (Most severe form of alpha thalassemia major cause birth. Beta thalassemia children born with beta thalassemia major they are normal at birth, but develop severe anemia in first year of age. Beta – Thalassemia is also known as (Cooley Anemia) Fatigue and weakness, Pale skin or jaundice, Poor appetite, Dark urine and lethargy these all are the some common sign and symptoms. Protruding abdomen with enlarged spleen and liver, Abnormal facial bones and poor growth and Bone marrow hyperplasia these are the severe sign and symptoms seen in thalassemia major condition.

Diagnostic Evaluation

History collection, Physical examination (can reveal splenomegaly), Blood test including the findings: RBC's will appear small and abnormal in shape when looking under microscope, CBC reveal anemia. Hb electrophoresis test show the presence abnormal form of Hb and with the help of Mutational analysis detect alpha thalassemia. Amniocentesis (fetal diagnosis for a specific type of thalassemia) and Molecular diagnostics test.

Management

Medical treatment: Thalassemia minor usually not required treatment but Thalassemia major required treatment according to patients condition or its symptoms – Blood transfusion, Iron chelation therapy, Genetic testing and counseling. Surgical treatment: Bone marrow transplantation (especially in children), Splenectomy may be done to decrease the transfusion requirements (because RBC's may be sequestered in spleen if iron supplement is used during blood transfusion).

Conclusion

Thalassemia are inherited disorder; beta Thalassemia has high severity, presented by Mild to severe anemia. Diagnosis by the Complete blood count (CBC), Blood Smear, Iron studies, Hemoglobinopathy, DNA analysis (Genetic testing), and Prenatal testing (Genetic testing of amniotic fluid). Alpha thalassemia major causes stillbirth. Treatment of thalassemia depends upon the severity and regular blood transfusion, iron chelation therapy, bone marrow transplantation etc. Prevention of this by premarital screening carrier detection, genetic counseling before family planning and prenatal testing. Prognosis of beta thalassemia major is very poor but we can increase the rate of survival by the some therapy like iron chelation therapy, blood transfusion and bone marrow transplantation.

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Discussion

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Standard journal article

[1] Flink H, Tegelberg Å, Thörn M, Lagerlöf F. Effect of oral iron supplementation on unstimulated salivary flow rate: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *J Oral Pathol Med* 2006; 35: 540-7.

[2] Twetman S, Axelsson S, Dahlgren H, Holm AK, Källestål C, Lagerlöf F, et al. Caries-preventive effect of fluoride toothpaste: A systematic review. *Acta Odontol Scand* 2003; 61: 347-55.

Article in supplement or special issue

[3] Fleischer W, Reimer K. Povidone iodine antiseptics. State of the art. *Dermatology* 1997; 195 Suppl 2: 3-9.

Corporate (collective) author

[4] American Academy of Periodontology. Sonic and ultrasonic scalers in periodontics. *J Periodontol* 2000; 71: 1792-801.

Unpublished article

[5] Garoushi S, Lassila LV, Tezvergil A, Vallittu PK. Static and fatigue compression test for particulate filler composite resin with fiber-reinforced composite substructure. *Dent Mater* 2006.

Personal author(s)

[6] Hosmer D, Lemeshow S. Applied logistic regression, 2nd edn. New York: Wiley-Interscience; 2000.

Chapter in book

[7] Nauntofte B, Tenovou J, Lagerlöf F. Secretion and composition of saliva. In: Fejerskov O,

Kidd EAM, editors. Dental caries: The disease and its clinical management. Oxford: Blackwell Munksgaard; 2003. p. 7-27.

No author given

[8] World Health Organization. Oral health surveys - basic methods, 4th edn. Geneva: World Health Organization; 1997.

Reference from electronic media

[9] National Statistics Online – Trends in suicide by method in England and Wales, 1979-2001. www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ20.pdf (accessed Jan 24, 2005): 7-18. Only verified references against the original documents should be cited. Authors are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their references and for correct text citation. The number of reference should be kept limited to 20 in case of major communications and 10 for short communications.

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