Oral health and canes related micro flora in children during the first three months following renal transplantation

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Summary. There is little information on the oral health of children undergoing renal transplantation during the early transplant period.

Methods. Twenty-four children undergoing renal transplantation aged 4-13·2 years and theiJ matched controls were recruited. The dmfs, dmft, DMFS and DMFT, plaque, gingivitis and gingival enlargement scores were recorded. The oral microftora was sampled and cultured for S. mutans, Lactobaclius species and Candida species.

Resulrs. There was a significantly lower mean dmfs (0·3 ± 0·9; P = 0·03), dmft (0·3 ± 0·9; P = 0·03), DMFS (2·3 ± 5·3; P = 0·01) and DMFT (1·5 ± 2·6; P = 0·02), respectively, in the transplant group. There was a significantly greater mean plaque score (14·7 ± 11) for the permanent dentition, at baseline only, compared with 90 days post-transplantation (904 ± 10·4; P = 0·02). There was a significantly greater gingival enlargement score (1·8 ± 1 A; P = 0·04) 90 days post-transplantation compared with baseline. The S. mutans and Lactobacillus counts were significantly lower both at baseline (P = 0·0001 and P = 0·004) and 90 days post-transplantation (P = 0·02; and P = 0·05), respectively, compared witb the controls.

Conclusions. The transplant children had less active dental disease than the controls although gingival enlargement needs careful monitoring.