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COVID-19 AND ORAL HEALTH
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Relevance. COVID-19 is especially dangerous for high-risk groups, including older people or those with serious health problems. Recent observations have uncovered that COVID-19 affects not only overall health, but also oral health. Moreover, routine care has been restricted or paused for some period in most countries. Due to this fact, progression of undiagnosed and unmanaged oral disease has become inconspicuous. Patients are usually unaware of development of an oral problem as it is not visible to them and asymptomatic, especially in its early stages. Dentists need to be open to consequences of COVID-19, especially in further diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Aim: to study the mutual influence of COVID-19 and oral health; to find out the effect of COVID-19 on the oral health of people of different age groups.

Materials and methods. A survey to discover COVID-19 influence based on the original questionnaire has been conducted. Scientific articles devoted to this topic and the Internet sites have been studied.

Results and discussion. According to the recent research, there is a link between COVID-19 and dental health. No exact number of cases is available, but loss of teeth without blood and pain was reported to have been diagnosed in several patients of different ages with different dental conditions. One of the cases is a 12-year-old boy with no history of any dental problems, who had lost one of his adult teeth, months after he had COVID-19. But the most discussed one is Ms. Khemili's case whose painless and unbloody tooth loss was considered to be associated with COVID-19. Moreover, it was noticed that inflammation caused by bacteria is the driving factor of COVID-19 complications in people who have signs of gum disease.

The survey conducted comprised more than 100 people of different ages (from 17 to 64). The survey showed that 42.1% of respondents went through COVID-19. 75.6% of them were ill less than 6 month ago. Herewith, 23.4% rated their oral health before COVID-19 as perfect, 53.2% considered it good, 19.1% evaluated it as satisfactory, and only 4.3% said it was bad. 17.4% noticed deterioration of oral health after COVID-19, which consisted of changing taste sensations – 6, cavity formation (caries) – 5, gum inflammation – 2. No one noticed a tooth loss or a filling loss. An 18-year-old girl, who characterized her oral health before COVID-19 as bad, showed gum inflammation and cavity formation concurrently. Other people, who showed symptoms, rated the condition of their dental health as «Good» – 3, «Satisfactory» – 4. Generally, 9.3% of respondents couldn't get dental help due to quarantine measures.

Conclusion. From the available facts and the conducted research the mutual influence of COVID-19 and oral health is present, but the exact relationship is not clear.