

# 25<sup>th</sup> Euro Dentistry Congress

September 20-21, 2017 Dublin, Ireland

## Evaluation of salivary flow rate and gustatory function in HIV positive patients with & without highly active antiretroviral therapy

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**Objectives:** To evaluate the salivary flow rate and gustatory changes in HIV positive patients with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) and without HAART. We also correlated CD4 count and salivary flow rate and gustatory function in both groups.

**Materials and Methods:** Sample size for each group was 30. After taking informed consent, we measured salivary flow rate using Schirmer's method and gustatory function was analyzed using four tastings (sweet, sour, bitter and salty) of different concentrations. The readings were recorded at 0 months (baseline), 2nd, 4th and 6th-month interval. The data obtained were statistically analysed.

**Results:** The mean salivary flow rate was decreased more in Group I as compared to Group II. The mean identification score for sweet, salty, sour and bitter was significantly higher in Group II than Group I. The mean detection threshold score for sweet, salty, sour and bitter taste was comparatively higher in Group I than Group II. The Pearson correlation analysis showed an inverse relationship between age and salivary flow rate in group II. No significant correlation was observed in the CD4 count and salivary flow rate.

**Conclusion:** Along with routine oral health appraisal in seropositive patients, evaluation of salivary flow rate and taste abnormalities should also be considered as an integral part of patient assessment.

### Biography

Ranjit Kumar Patil has completed his MDS from Government Dental College & Hospital, Nagpur University. He is presently working as Professor and Head of Post-graduate Department of Oral Medicine & Radiology at King George Medical University, India. He is also a PhD Supervisor, Faculty of Dental Science, Pacific Academy of Higher Education & Research University, India. He has more than 30 papers in various reputed journals. He has supervised more than 15 research projects. He has numerous oral presentations in the various national and international conferences. He has participated in more than 50 various conferences and CDE programme and acted as Scientific Chairman in more than 25 conferences. He is reviewer of various national and international journals including *J Educational Evaluation for Health Professionals*. He has also been member of editorial board of *Indian Journal of Oral Medicine & Radiology* during the year 2011-2013.

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