

Reliability of a Cariogram Model as Caries Risk Assessment Tool

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The "Cariogram" is an interactive PC program for caries risk evaluation. It illustrates the caries risk and the interactions between caries-related actors and expresses a graphic assessment of the risk. The caries risk in that model is expressed as "Percent Chance to Avoid Cavities". The present study was conducted to compare the outcome of caries risk evaluation made by 'Cariogram' program on a set of patients with those made by some clinicians in Jeddah. A questionnaire-containing description of five patients was given to 70 dentists working in the public health sector in Jeddah city. Detailed information of nine factors generally associated with dental caries was provided for each patient. The results showed that 65.7% of the dentists ranked the patients for caries risk identically as the cariogram with only one deviation to the program. About 25.7% and 8.6% of dentists ranked only two and one cases, respectively, identical to the cariogram. There was a significant correlation between the ranking order of the 65.7% of dentists and the ranking order of the cariogram. While, there was no correlation between the ranking order of the 25.7% and 8.6% groups of dentists and the ranking order of the cariogram. Therefore, it was concluded that the cariogram could be a reliable tool in risk assessment that will give standardized results between different cases

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