Abstract

The aim of this study was to evaluate the degree of tooth wear in posterior deciduous teeth of 100 subjects in the second phase of mixed dentition who were born in the 1950s (50sG) and 100 subjects born in the 1990s (90sG). The degree of abrasion for each posterior deciduous tooth was scored ranging from 0 to 3. The comparison of the degree of abrasion showed significant differences between the two groups for all examined teeth (upper and lower deciduous canines and first and second primary molars) all of which appeared to be more abraded in the 50sG. The findings of the present study indicate that subjects who were born in the 1950s exhibited a significantly greater degree of tooth wear on the posterior deciduous teeth when compared with contemporary subjects, along with a well-recognized lower prevalence of malocclusions. Changes in dietary habits and a diet based on processed foods may be postulated as factors involved with a decrease of dental attrition in contemporary populations. An increase in the prevalence of mouth breathing (tested in the present study) appears to be associated with a decrease in tooth wear in the contemporary population as well.
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