Int J Clin Pediatr Dent

. 2023 Nov;16(Suppl 3):288-292.

 doi: 10.5005/jp-journals-10005-2704.

**Association between Serum Iron, Serum Ferritin Levels, and Severe Early Childhood Caries: A Case-Control Study**

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* PMID: 38268632

* PMCID: [PMC10804305](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/pmc10804305/)

* DOI: [10.5005/jp-journals-10005-2704](https://doi.org/10.5005/jp-journals-10005-2704)

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**Abstract**

**Aim:**The presence of extensive dental caries leads to pain, inflammation, and discomfort and hence interferes with their nutritional intake, which includes iron deficiency anemia. This study was undertaken to determine whether any correlation exists between severe early childhood caries (S-ECC), serum iron, and serum ferritin levels in children.

**Materials and methods:**A total of 688 children were examined in the age-group of 2-6 years, and 82 children who fulfilled the selection criteria were equally divided into group I, that is, case group (carious group *n* = 41) and group II, that is, control group (caries-free group *n* = 41), on the basis of decayed, missing, and filled primary teeth (dmft) scores. All the selected children in both groups underwent blood investigations through phlebotomy for assessment of serum iron and serum ferritin levels.

**Results:**The mean values of variables, that is, hemoglobin (Hb), serum iron, serum ferritin, total iron-binding capacity (TIBC), and unsaturated iron-binding capacity (UIBC), are lower in the case group when compared to control group. The differences observed were statistically significant in case of dmft and UIBC values at *p* < 0.05 but not significant in cases of other variables like Hb, serum iron, serum ferritin, and TIBC values.

**Conclusion:**An inverse relationship was found between S-ECC, serum iron, and serum ferritin levels, but the evidence is still inconclusive.

**How to cite this article:**Atri Y, Garg N, Pathivada L, *et al.* Association between Serum Iron, Serum Ferritin Levels, and Severe Early Childhood Caries: A Case-Control Study. Int J Clin Pediatr Dent 2023;16(S-3):S288-S292.

**Keywords:**Serum ferritin; Serum iron; Severe early childhood caries.