ARC5: Comparison of Salivary pH and Taste Sensitivity among Patients in a Tertiary Hospital: A Cross Sectional Study

Karla Mae. R. Sarmiento, M.D.
Miguel V. Crisostomo Jr., M.D.
Celso V. Ureta, M.D.
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Veterans Memorial Medical Center

OBJECTIVES:
General Objective
This study aims to evaluate the association of salivary pH and the taste sensitivity of patients attending at Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery OPD Clinic

Specific Objective
1. To be able to determine the salivary pH among non-geriatric and geriatric patients
2. To be able to determine the association of salivary pH and taste sensitivity of non-geriatric and geriatric patients

METHODS:
Study Design: Cross-sectional study
Setting: Tertiary hospital
Subjects: 40 patients

RESULTS: The study included 40 patients seen at the outpatient department. The mean age of patients who underwent the procedure is 59.8 years old. Nineteen patients are non-geriatric and 21 patients are geriatric patients. The salivary pH in the non-geriatric group has a positive correlation with age (r=0.14) in contrast to the geriatric group. Among the 4 tastants in the non-geriatric grouo, the taste sensitivity for NaCL has the strongest correlation with salivary pH (r=0.38) followed by quinine (r=0.25), citric acid (r=0.17) and sucrose (r=0.12). in the geriatric group, taste sensitivity for quinine has the strongest correlation with salivary pH (r=0.40) followed by sucrose (r=0.26) and NaCl (r=0.17).

CONCLUSION: The study shows there is a difference in the salivary pH and taste sensitivity among non-geriatric and geriatric patients. The mean salivary pH among geriatric decrease with age and for the non-geriatric, it increase with age. Among the 4 tastants in the non-geriatric group, the taste sensitivity for NaCl has the strongest correlation followed by quinine, citric acid and sucrose. Among the 4 tastants in the geriatric group, the taste sensitivity for Quinine has the strongest correlation with salivary pH followed by sucrose and NaCl.

Keywords: salivary pH, taste sensitivity, tastants, geriatric