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The influence of oral health microcefalia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Microcephaly is a condition in which the baby's head is smaller than normal. It is a clinical sign that may or may not be related to other morphological changes. Studies show that children with microcephaly are more susceptible to changes in the oral region. **Objective:** To verify the problems caused in the oral health of children affected by microcephaly and to relate the embryonic development and bone formation with neurological problems caused by microcephaly. **Methodology:** We conducted a research on databases such as Scielo and Lilacs, and sites such as PAHO/WHO and the Ministry of Health, using the descriptors: Microcephaly, Craniofacial Malformations, Oral Health. **Results and Discussion:** The research resulted in 4,000 articles, of which 40 were separated because they were related to the topic, but only 20 met the inclusion criteria. Neonates with head circumference two standard deviations below the mean should be considered as having microcephaly. For this diagnosis, the measurement should be done at least 24 hours after birth and within the first week of life. Recently, Brazil has started an outbreak of microcephaly related to Zika virus and studies confirm viral neurotropism with possible persistence in brain tissue and placental impairment. Some changes may be related to the multifactorial etiology of microcephaly, which involves genetic and environmental factors. Thus, microcephaly may interfere with organs of the stomatognathic system, influence craniofacial growth, and alter its dynamics. About 1638 children with microcephaly in Brazil have oral alterations including periodontal diseases, dental caries, malocclusion, micrognathia and delayed eruption. **Conclusion:** It is of great importance to expand the study that relates the health and development of the stomatognathic system in children with microcephaly related to Zika virus so that, if there is a strict relation between the two, the population obtains positive results in the resolutions of their problems.

Keywords: Microcephaly; oral health; Zika virus

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