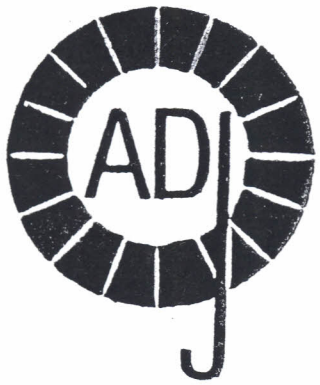

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RELATION OF SALIVARY CALCIUM, PHOSPHORUS, ALKALINE PHOSPHATASE AND LACTIC ACID DEHYDROGENASE TO THE INCIDENCE OF DENTAL CARIES IN CHILDREN

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Introduction:

Although there has been great progress towards caries control and prevention during the past decade, dental caries still remains one of the most wide spread of human afflictions. Rampant caries which differs from an ordinary dental decay, has been the subject of study by many investigators. It is clear that it is not a specific disease entity with a single and specific cause, in stead, it must be considered to be the extreme end of the range of caries activity. It is usually associated with alteration in the characteristic of saliva[1,2].

It has been recognized that there is a broad and complex relationship between saliva and caries[3,4].

Many constituents of saliva, both inorganic and organic, have a potentially protective role in dental caries, among these, are calcium and phosphate ions which together produce a saturated environment for the teeth and help to resist dissolution and encourage remineralization. of teeth.

There are many conflicting results regarding the levels of salivary calcium and phosphorus in relation to dental caries[5,6]. These may arise largely from the difficulties in standardizing sampling

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