



TRADE PROJECT

**TITLE: PREVALENCE AND MANAGEMENT OF DENTAL CARIES
AMONG PATIENTS ATTENDING MURANG'A DISTRICT
HOSPITAL FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2008.**

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**COLLEGE: THE KENYA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
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**SUBMITTED TO: KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL IN
PARTIAL FULLFILLMENT FOR AWARD OF DIPLOM IN
PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY.**

SERIES: OCT/NOV 2008

ABSTRACT

Dental caries is a disease that affects the oral health of individuals worldwide. It consists of demineralization of the inorganic portion and destruction of organic substance of tooth. School children and most adults are commonly affected adversely affecting most of their activities.

This was a study to find out the prevalence and management of dental caries among patients aged 1-49 years at Murang'a District Hospital. The research was carried out within a period of three months. The study was a descriptive, cross-sectional study where data was collected from a randomly selected sample which was used to describe the caries status among patients aged 1-49 years.

The study included randomly selected patients where 357 respondents were examined and data collected from dental records, interviews and through questionnaires. The data was presented in tables, pie charts and bar graphs.

The prevalence of dental caries was relatively higher in females (56.97%) than in Males (43.03%). The research also showed that permanent dentition is more affected with 58.75% when compared to deciduous dentition with 41.25%. From the findings it was concluded that dental caries is a disease of concern in Murang'a District Hospital where prevalence of 70.31% is an alarming figure. The female patients are also more affected than their male counterparts. Once the tooth is destroyed there is no medication to reverse the situation but the tooth can be removed to relieve pain and discomfort.

Therefore, caries prevalence of 70.31% was an alarming rate of dental caries progression, females being more affected than males. However, there is need for dental health personnel for dental education to public through health care teams.

Proper education to the population should be encouraged and made to understand the factors leading to dental caries.