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Lead absorption in impacted third molars
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Abstract

Lead levels in 56 whole impacted third molars of 15-28 years old people living in Mexico City were determined by graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrophotometry. Samples were classified by tooth position, age, and gender. Third molar concentrations showed a nearly lognormal distribution, therefore a non-parametric statistic was applied to estimate if there were significant differences among the mentioned variables and lead concentration. The geometric mean concentration (X g) for all third molars was 4.21 ± 1.74 µg g-1, having mandibular molars higher concentrations (X g = 4.53 ± 1.62 µg g-1) than maxillary molars (X g = 3.87 ± 1.86 µg g-1), however, no significant differences were found between them. The molars of the oldest donors presented the highest lead geometric mean concentration (X g = 5.81 µg g-1). Females´ molars had higher levels than males´ molars, with no significant differences between them.

Keywords

teeth, impacted molars, third molars, teeth lead concentrations