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**Patient-Related Risk Factors for Xerostomia and Hyposalivation**

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**Objectives** The objective of this study is to systematically identify and analyze patient-related risk factors for xerostomia and hyposalivation, with the aim of improving understanding of their etiology and prevalence.

**Methods** 116 patients at the University clinic of dental medicine of Geneva were recruited, 60 patients 18-54 years and 56 over 55 years old. Demographic details, medication intake and smoking status were recorded. Each patient underwent the unstimulated saliva flow test by drool method (UST) and the stimulated saliva flow test by chewing gum (CG). Patients completed the Xerostomia Inventory (XI) questionnaire to evaluate the symptoms of xerostomia. Statistical analyses were conducted using the Mann-Whitney U test and Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.

**Results** The Xerostomia Inventory (XI) correlates with both stimulated and unstimulated salivary test scores ( $p < 0.05$ ). The distribution of results for UST, CG, and XI is independent of gender. However, the distributions of UST and XI differ between individuals with and without systemic disease, whereas the distribution for CG does not. Drug use alters the distribution of results for all three tests. The number of teeth correlates with the results of XI and UST, whereas the number of occluding units correlates only with UST. Smoking is not correlated with the presence of hyposalivation or xerostomia.

**Conclusions** This study identifies age, systemic disease and drug use as risk factors for hyposalivation and xerostomia, but neither smoking nor gender appear to be a risk factor for either condition.