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NEW FINDINGS OF THE DISSERTATION

Thesis title: “*Current status of dental caries and gingivitis and the effectiveness of selected intervention measures among primary school students in Dong Son District, Thanh Hoa Province*”

Major: Public health

Code: 9720701

PhD Candidate: Ha Van Chien

Scientific Supervisor:

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Institution: Thai Binh University of Medicine and Pharmacy

NEW CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DISSERTATION

- The study identified that the prevalence of dental caries in both primary (deciduous) and permanent teeth among primary school students in the study area remained high, accounting for 65.1% and 47.1%, respectively. The highest prevalence of dental caries in primary teeth was observed among Grade 1 students (73.8%), while the highest prevalence of dental caries in permanent teeth was found among Grade 2 students (54.2%). The prevalence of gingivitis was also high, at 63.6% in primary teeth and 50.9% in permanent teeth. The highest prevalence of gingivitis was recorded among Grade 1 students (73.4% in primary teeth and 64.8% in permanent teeth). The prevalence of gingivitis among male and female students was 83.4% and 85.8%, respectively.

- The proportion of students who were knowledgeable about the causes and clinical signs of dental caries remained low. The mean knowledge score regarding the harmful effects of dental caries was only 2.37 out of 4 points. The proportion of students able to identify appropriate preventive practices for dental caries and gingivitis was also limited.

- Intervention measures, including direct and indirect health communication and education, as well as the provision of practical preventive tools, resulted in significant improvements in students' knowledge and practices related to the prevention of dental caries and gingivitis.

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