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Título	Relationship among α amylase and carbonic anhydrase VI in saliva, visible biofilm, and early childhood caries: a longitudinal study
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Resumo	<p>Aim: This longitudinal study investigated the relationship among early childhood caries (ECC), α amylase, carbonic anhydrase VI (CA VI), and the presence of visible biofilm, besides detecting if these variables could predict risk for ECC.</p> <p>Design: One hundred children were divided into two groups: caries group (n = 45) and caries-free group (n = 55). Visible biofilm on maxillary incisors was recorded, followed by caries diagnosis in preschoolers at baseline and at follow-up. Saliva samples were collected, and activities of CA VI and α amylase were determined. Data normality was assessed by Shapiro–Wilk test and then Mann–Whitney, Spearman correlation, and chi-square tests followed by multiple logistic regression analysis ($\alpha = 0.05$, 95% confidence interval).</p> <p>Results: CA VI activity was significantly higher in saliva of children with caries ($P \leq 0.05$), and α amylase activity was significantly higher in saliva of caries-free children ($P < 0.0001$). Children with α amylase activity in saliva lower than 122.8 U/mL (OR = 3.33 $P = 0.042$) and visible biofilm on maxillary incisors (OR = 3.6 $P = 0.009$) were more likely to develop ECC than caries-free children. A negative correlation between caries and α amylase activity was found ($P = 0.0008$).</p> <p>Conclusions: The presence of visible biofilm and low salivary activity of α amylase may be considered risk predictors for ECC.</p>
Fomento	