

# Dental caries in association with viral load in children living with HIV in Phnom Penh, Cambodia: a cross-sectional study

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## Research article

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## Abstract

**Background:** Oral health status is known to be associated with overall health among people living with HIV. However, it is unclear whether dental caries is associated with viral load among this population. In particular, dental caries among children living with HIV needs to be better understood, as this can affect their overall health and future well-being. This study assessed the association between dental caries and viral load among children living with HIV in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted at the National Paediatric Hospital as a baseline survey of a randomized controlled trial. The study population included children living with HIV aged 3–15 years and their primary caregivers. Calibrated examiners collected data on dental caries status (WHO index) and the latest HIV viral load data stored in the patients' information system at the hospital. On the day of the dental examination, children's caregivers and older children were invited to answer a questionnaire-based interview. Multiple logistic regression analysis was conducted to assess the association between dental caries and viral load. The cut-off point for undetectable viral load was set at <40 copies/mL.

**Results:** Data from 328 children were included in the analysis; 68.3% had an undetectable viral load. The mean decayed, missing, or filled permanent/deciduous teeth was 7.7 (standard deviation = 5.0). In the regression analysis, dental caries in permanent or deciduous teeth was positively associated with detectable viral load (adjusted odds ratio: 1.07, 95% confidence interval: 1.01–1.14). Conversely, antiretroviral therapy of  $\geq 1$  year and self-reported better adherence to antiretroviral drugs were negatively associated with detectable viral load. Among children with detectable viral load, dental caries in permanent or deciduous teeth was also positively associated with non-suppression of viral load (>1000 copies/mL) (adjusted odds ratio: 1.12, 95% confidence interval: 1.03–1.23).

**Conclusions:** Dental caries was associated with viral load status detection among children living with HIV. This finding suggests that dental caries may affect the immune status of children. The oral health of children living with HIV should be strengthened, and further research is needed to clarify the causal relationship between viral load and oral health status.

## Background

Globally, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-related deaths decreased by 35%, from 1.7 million in 2004 (the highest rate) to 1.1 million in 2018 [1]. This change implies that people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) now have a longer life expectancy than previously reported [2] and, as a result, the number of people living with HIV is higher than ever [1].

The presence of oral lesions indicates HIV progression and an increase in plasma viral load, which is the amount of HIV in blood, among people living with HIV [3-5]. Among these patients, oral hairy leukoplakia and oral candidiasis are suggested to be associated with a decreased viral load [6, 7]. HIV seropositive status could be associated with dental caries. This could be due to progressive immunodeficiency [8], the influence of medications on the salivary flow [9], diet, inadequate oral hygiene, socioeconomic status [10]. However, the association between HIV viral load and dental caries remains unclear, especially in the pediatric population. Childhood is a crucial period in which physical development determines the future oral health status and, consequently, may influence overall health.

Cambodia is one of the Southeast-Asian countries that has implemented effective HIV prevention and treatment approaches [11]. In 2018, there was a 62% reduction in new HIV infection cases among the general population of all ages, including children, compared to 2010 [1]. Of all people living with HIV, 81% received antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 78% had suppressed viral load in 2018 [1]. However, a high prevalence of dental caries has been reported among uninfected Cambodian children; it was found that approximately 93% at age 6 years and 80% at age 12–13 years have dental caries [12, 13]. Children living with HIV are no exception to poor oral health, and the condition is even worse than in uninfected children. Thus, these children have a higher number of dental caries than children without HIV infection [14].

This study therefore aimed to assess the association between dental caries and viral load among children living with HIV in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

## Methods

### Study design and sites

This cross-sectional study was conducted from February to April 2018 as a baseline survey of a randomized controlled trial (Clinical Trial Number: ISRCTN15177479) aiming to improve the oral health of children living with HIV at the National Paediatric Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Details of the trial have been published elsewhere [15]. This hospital is a tertiary referral facility that provides comprehensive care and treatment for children from across the country, including HIV and dental services, and is a major pediatric HIV clinic in Phnom Penh that provides ART. The children living with HIV receive a consultation and collect their medication every two months. Dental care is provided free of charge to children living with HIV in this hospital.

### Study population

The target population in this study was children living with HIV and their caregivers. In the case of older children, who visited the hospital and self-administered their medication, we interviewed only the children. The children were included if they were aged 3–15 years on the day of data collection, had a patient identification number at the study site hospital, and were under ART. They were selected from the registry of hospital's ART clinic using an age-stratified random sampling method. Randomization was performed using a computerized algorithm by a data analyst, who was not a primary member of the research team. The caregivers were eligible only if they were  $\geq 18$  years old and were the primary caregiver of the child.

### **Sample size**

The sample size for children was calculated based on the number required for the following intervention phase. The sample size set in the study protocol was calculated according to the decayed, missing, or filled permanent teeth (DMFT) score collected in a previous survey among 8–15-year-old children living with HIV [15]. However, after the completion of the baseline survey among the 3–15-year-old children, we obtained accurate DMFT scores for the study population. Therefore, we revised the sample size based on the following indicators: increment of DMFT, 17%; baseline DMFT of children living with HIV, 4.0 (standard deviation [SD] = 3.6); power, 80%; alpha, 5%. The final sample size required was 199 for each group. However, because of the improvement in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission in Cambodia, the number of children living with HIV aged <8 years was low, and we could not recruit the required sample size. Therefore, 160 children were recruited in each group. In this study, both intervention and control groups of children living with HIV were examined, and thus, in total, 320 children were expected to participate.

### **Data collection**

Two teams, each consisting of one dentist and one dental assistant, collected data on the children's dental caries status. To ensure accuracy of the examination, one of the dentist's researchers provided a one-day training session on how to assess the dental status of patients using guidelines from the World Health Organization [16]. The reproducibility of intra-examiner and inter-examiner evaluations was assessed. The dentists checked for DMFT in 10 children and compared the results between the two teams. The consistency rate of the results was >85%. These data were not included in the main data collected. The total number of decayed, missing, or filled permanent teeth was calculated as the DMFT score, and the decayed, missing, or filled deciduous teeth (dmft) score was obtained for deciduous teeth. The overall DMFT and dmft values were evaluated separately and together by the sum of both scores. The severity of dental caries was expressed based on DMFT/dmft = 0 (no dental caries) and DMFT/dmft >0 (the presence of dental caries). If permanent and deciduous teeth were found to occupy the same tooth space, the status of the permanent tooth was recorded according to the World Health Organization guidelines [16]. All dental data were collected in the dental unit of the hospital using disposable mouth mirrors.

The research assistants collected clinical data from the HIV clinic's registered documents, including age, latest viral load within 12 months, ART regimen, and duration of ART. Six research assistants interviewed the caregivers and older children on the same day of dental data collection using a structured questionnaire, including the child's adherence to antiretroviral drugs developed based on previously published questionnaires [17, 18]. They received one-day training from the first author to clarify and improve their understanding of the questionnaire. For the adherence question, if the drugs were self-administered by the child, we interviewed the child to obtain accurate information. The question was, "How would you rate your/your child's adherence over the past 30 days?" The response choices were very poor, poor, fair, good, very good, or excellent [17].

### **Statistical analyses**

The data were analyzed descriptively to assess the distribution of the variables. Subsequently, dental caries were classified into dental caries in permanent teeth, dental caries in deciduous teeth, and dental caries in all teeth. We assessed the association of viral load, the dependent variable, with dental caries, age, sex, duration of ART, and adherence to antiretroviral drugs. The age, sex, and duration of ART variables were included following the model used in a previous study that examined the association between DMFT and CD4+ cell count [8]. The variable of adherence to antiretroviral drugs was also included because it is related to viral load in most cases [19]. For all participants, the independent variables were first examined for association with viral load ("detected" or "undetected"), defined with a cut-off point of <40 copies/mL according to the detection limit of the tests. We also examined the association with viral non-suppression, 1000 copies/mL, which is the threshold for treatment failure [20] among only those who had a detectable viral load. For bivariate analyses, we used the Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test, if a count in one cell was <5, for categorical variables. We used Student's *t*-tests for continuous variables. Further, we applied the multiple logistic regression analysis and  $p < 0.05$  was used to indicate statistical significance. All data analyses were performed using IBM SPSS, version 24.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

## **Results**

In total, 337 children living with HIV participated in our study. However, data from nine children were excluded owing to missing values. Finally, data from 328 children were included in the analysis. Regarding the interview responses, 100 were from the children only and 228 were from both children and caregivers.

### **General characteristics**

**Table 1** shows the characteristics of participant children. Of all the children, 48.2% were female. The mean age of the children was 10.8 years (SD = 3.0). The mean duration of ART was 6.3 years (SD = 3.6). Moreover, 68.3% of children had an undetectable viral load. Among children with a detectable viral load, the load ranged up to approximately 5 012 000 copies/mL. Of the participants, 93.0% had at least one permanent tooth (age range, 6–15 years old); 57.3% had at least one deciduous tooth (age range, 3–15 years old). Of them, 50.3% had both permanent and deciduous teeth (age range, 6–15 years old). The mean values for DMFT and dmft were 4.0 (SD = 3.6) and 7.0 (SD = 4.9), respectively. The mean number of teeth with caries including permanent and deciduous teeth was 7.7 (SD = 5.0). Only 5.8% of children were free from caries. For adherence to antiretroviral drugs, no children answered “very poor”. The most frequent response was “good” (51.2%).

#### **Association between dental caries and detectable viral load**

**Table 2** shows the bivariate and multivariate associations between different factors and detectable viral load. The bivariate analyses indicated that total DMFT/dmft was positively associated with detectable viral load (odds ratio [OR]: 1.07, 95% CI: 1.02–1.12). Being on ART for  $\geq 1$  year (OR: 0.19, 95% CI: 0.08–0.43) and “excellent” adherence to antiretroviral drugs (OR: 0.24, 95% CI: 0.08–0.70) were significantly associated with an undetectable viral load.

Multiple logistic regression analyses were performed in three models stratified by the presence of certain teeth: only permanent teeth, only deciduous teeth, and any teeth. The model that included children with permanent teeth ( $n = 305$ ) showed that  $\geq 1$  year on ART (adjusted OR [AOR]: 0.18, 95% CI: 0.07–0.45) and “excellent” adherence to antiretroviral drugs (AOR: 0.21, 95% CI: 0.07–0.65) were negatively associated with detectable viral load. The model that included children with deciduous teeth ( $n = 188$ ) showed that dmft was positively associated with detectable viral load (AOR: 1.10, 95% CI: 1.01–1.19). At least 1 year on ART (AOR: 0.19, 95% CI: 0.07–0.57) and “excellent” adherence to antiretroviral drugs (AOR: 0.21, 95% CI: 0.04–0.97) were negatively associated with detectable viral load. The model that included children with all types of teeth ( $n = 328$ ) showed that total DMFT/dmft was positively associated with detectable viral load (AOR: 1.07, 95% CI: 1.01–1.14), and that  $\geq 1$  year on ART (AOR: 0.22, 95% CI: 0.09–0.52) and “excellent” adherence to antiretroviral drugs (AOR: 0.16, 95% CI: 0.05–0.51) were negatively associated with detectable viral load.

#### **Association between dental caries and viral non-suppression**

**Table 3** shows the association between dental caries and viral non-suppression ( $>1000$  copies/mL). The bivariate analyses showed that dmft (OR: 1.12, 95% CI: 1.01–1.25) and total of DMFT/dmft (OR: 1.10, 95% CI: 1.02–1.19) were positively associated with viral non-suppression

Among children with detectable viral load and who had deciduous teeth ( $n = 68$ ), dmft was positively associated with viral non-suppression (AOR: 1.22, 95% CI: 1.05–1.41). Among all children with detectable viral load ( $n = 104$ ), the analyses indicated that total DMFT/dmft was positively associated with viral non-suppression (AOR: 1.12, 95% CI: 1.03–1.23).

## **Discussion**

In this study, we found that dental caries, duration of ART, and adherence to antiretroviral drugs were associated with viral load. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to reveal the association between dental caries and viral load among children living with HIV.

The undetectable viral load rate of 68.3% in our study was similar to that reported in following previous studies [24, 25]. In an intervention study that aimed to examine the effectiveness of ART among Cambodian children living with HIV, the undetectable viral load rate was 81% [21]. A meta-analysis that included seven studies on children living with HIV from 2010 and later estimated the undetectable viral load rate ( $<40$  copies/mL) at 72.7% (95% CI: 62.6–82.8) after 6 months on first-line ART [22].

In our study, the high occurrence of dental caries in permanent or deciduous teeth was associated with a detectable viral load. Furthermore, a high number of dental caries in permanent or deciduous teeth was associated with viral non-suppression. However, this finding contrasted with a study in the United States conducted by Moscicki et al. [23] who found no association between viral load and oral health indicators among children and adolescents aged 7–16 years. However, most of the participants in that study had permanent teeth, and their results do not completely contradict those of our study. We also did not find an association when we included only children with permanent teeth. However, the reason for the lack of this association is unclear. To address this, the child’s immature immunological status or dental risk factors during development will have to be studied. For adults living with HIV, some studies suggested an association between dental caries and advanced viral load. In a study in the United States, Baqui et al. [3] demonstrated that the majority of adults with HIV with a high viral load had a DMFT score  $>20$ . However, the correlation was not significant. Some studies, including our previous study that focused on children 8–15 years old only, demonstrated a positive association between dental caries and CD4+ cell count among children living with HIV [8, 24]. This may suggest a correlation between dental caries and viral load, as CD4+ cell count has a negative correlation with viral load. With respect to the association between viral load and dental caries, people living with HIV in the advanced stages of AIDS experience xerostomia. It is often diagnosed due to a lack of salivary flow among people living with HIV in the advanced stages of immunosuppression [25]. The lack of salivary flow could be one of the causes of dental caries [25, 26]. However, the causal relationship is not clear, and the influence of poor oral health status on AIDS-related diseases cannot be ruled out based on our results. Alternatively, the compromised systemic health of children may be a factor associated with low immune status, higher viral load, and poor oral health, although

further study is needed to clarify the mechanism. In any case, considering the association between general health and oral health status, the treatment and care of children's teeth need to be strengthened in the field.

Our study also demonstrates that other factors, such as duration of ART and adherence to antiretroviral drugs, were associated with viral load. Similar to our research, longer duration on ART and high adherence to antiretroviral drugs were found to be associated with viral suppression or lower viral load in different studies [22, 27-30]. This association implies the effectiveness of ART in improving the immune system. In many cases, the self-reported adherence rate is often biased due to improper recalling and social desirability [31]. However, the positive association identified in our study may suggest that participant responses are close to reality.

This study has some limitations. A cross-sectional design was employed, and there was no control group. Therefore, this study does not prove causality. We assessed the presence of dental caries and need further studies to assess the other dental risk factors. In addition, as the data were collected from only one hospital, it may not be generalizable. However, our study site hospital includes the largest number of children living with HIV in the country and is the main referral hospital for children living with HIV in Phnom Penh. Thus, the findings in this study could be applicable to the general population of children living with HIV in Cambodia.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, this study revealed a significant association between HIV viral load and dental caries among children living with HIV in Phnom Penh. Thus, oral health status might have affected the disease progression, as well as the immune status of the children. Further research is needed to clarify the causal relationship between viral load and oral health status.

## List Of Abbreviations

AIDS: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; AOR: adjusted OR; ART: antiretroviral therapy; DMFT: decayed, missing, or filled permanent teeth; dmft: decayed, missing, or filled deciduous teeth; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; OR: odds ratio; SD: standard deviation.

## Declarations

### Ethics approval and consent to participate

Ethics approval was obtained from the National Ethics Committee for Health Research, Ministry of Health, Cambodia (approval number: 289NECHR) and the Research Ethics Committee of Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan (approval number: 29067). Written informed consent was obtained from the caregivers before data collection and assent to participate in the study was obtained from the children. Participation was voluntary and confidentiality was maintained.

### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

### Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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### Authors' contributions

Conceptualization: KK, JY, MM, ST, and SY.

Data curation: ST, SY, and PC.

Formal analysis: KK.

Funding acquisition: KK.

Investigation: ST, PC, CH, and SY.

Methodology: KK.

Project administration: ST.

Supervision: MM, SY.

Writing – original draft: KK.

Writing – review & editing: JY, MM, ST, SO, CH, and SY.

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## Tables

**Table 1.** General characteristics and health status of the study participants

Characteristic	All children (n = 328)		Children with detectable viral load (n = 104)	
Sex, n (%)				
female	158	(48.2)	46	(44.2)
male	170	(51.8)	58	(55.8)
Age (years), mean (SD) <sup>a</sup>	10.8	(3.0)	10.3	(3.3)
3-5	19	(5.8)	9	(8.7)
6-7	31	(9.5)	15	(14.4)
8-10	78	(23.8)	20	(19.2)
11-12	91	(27.7)	27	(26.0)
13-15	109	(33.2)	33	(31.7)
Duration of ART <sup>b</sup> (years), mean (SD)	6.3	(3.6)	4.9	(3.7)
<1	28	(8.5)	19	(18.3)
≥1	300	(91.5)	85	(81.7)
Viral load, n (%)				
undetected	224	(68.3)	-	-
detected (>40 copies/mL)	104	(31.7)	-	-
Viral load detected (n = 104) (copies/mL), n (%)				
<40	-	-	26	(25.0)
40-100	-	-	16	(15.4)
100-1000	-	-	12	(11.5)
1000-10 000	-	-	12	(11.5)
10 000-100 000	-	-	28	(26.9)
>100 000	-	-	10	(9.6)
Children without dental caries, n (%)	19	(5.8)	5	(4.8)
Dental caries status, n (%)				
DMFT <sup>c</sup> (total children, n = 305) (children with detectable viral load, n = 93)	4.0	(3.6)	4.2	(4.1)
dmft <sup>d</sup> (total children, n = 188) (children with detectable viral load, n = 68)	7.0	(4.9)	7.8	(5.0)
DMFT/dmft (total children, n = 328) (children with detectable viral load, n = 104)	7.7	(5.0)	8.9	(5.3)
Adherence to antiretroviral drugs in the past 30 days, n (%)				
very poor	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
poor	3	(0.9)	3	(2.9)
fair	25	(7.6)	9	(8.7)
good	168	(51.2)	54	(51.9)
very good	75	(22.9)	28	(26.9)
excellent	52	(15.9)	8	(7.7)
unknown	5	(1.5)	2	(2.0)

<sup>a</sup>SD, standard deviation

<sup>b</sup>ART, antiretroviral therapy

<sup>c</sup>DMFT, decayed, missing, or filled permanent teeth

<sup>d</sup>dmft, decayed, missing, or filled deciduous teeth

**Table 2.** Association between dental caries and viral detection (>40 copies/mL)

Variable	Bivariate analysis <sup>a</sup>			Multivariate analysis									
				Viral non-suppression status among children who had permanent teeth (n = 305)			Viral non-suppression status among children who had deciduous teeth (n = 188)			Viral non-suppression status among all children (n = 328)			
	Crude OR <sup>b</sup>	95% CI <sup>c</sup>		Adjusted OR	95% CI		Adjusted OR	95% CI		Adjusted OR	95% CI		
<b>Dental caries status</b>													
DMFT <sup>d</sup>	1.02	0.96	1.10	1.02	0.94	1.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
dmft <sup>e</sup>	1.06	0.99	1.12	-	-	-	1.10	1.01	1.19 *	-	-	-	-
DMFT/dmft	1.07	1.02	1.12 **	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.07	1.01	1.14 *
<b>Sex</b>													
female	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	-
male	1.26	0.79	2.01	1.35	0.80	2.37	1.67	0.86	3.24	1.39	0.84	2.29	-
<b>Age (years)<sup>f</sup></b>													
3-10	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	-
11-15	0.80	0.50	1.29	0.91	0.49	1.66	2.11	0.94	4.77	1.03	0.59	1.82	-
<b>Duration of ART<sup>g</sup> (years)<sup>h</sup></b>													
<1	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	-
≥1	0.19	0.08	0.43 **	0.18	0.07	0.45 **	0.19	0.07	0.57 **	0.22	0.09	0.52 *	-
<b>Adherence to antiretroviral drugs in the past 30 days</b>													
poor/fair	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	-
good	0.63	0.28	1.43	0.51	0.22	1.18	0.79	0.21	3.02	0.56	0.24	1.31	-
very good	0.79	0.33	1.92	0.64	0.26	1.61	0.83	0.20	3.43	0.63	0.25	1.58	-
excellent	0.24	0.08	0.70 *	0.21	0.07	0.65 **	0.21	0.04	0.97 *	0.16	0.05	0.51 **	-

\*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01

<sup>a</sup>Viral load was a binary variable (detected or undetected)

<sup>b</sup>OR, odds ratio

<sup>c</sup>CI, confidence interval

<sup>d</sup>DMFT, decayed, missing, or filled permanent teeth

<sup>e</sup>dmft, decayed, missing, or filled deciduous teeth

<sup>f</sup>The cut-off was set as 10 years old (median of mixed dentition)

<sup>g</sup>ART, antiretroviral therapy

<sup>h</sup>The cut-off was set as 1-year (most likely period attaining viral RNA thresholds in low- and middle-income countries [32])

**Table 3.** Association between dental caries and viral non-suppression (>1000 copies/mL)

Variable	Bivariate analysis <sup>a</sup>			Multivariate analysis								
	Crude OR <sup>b</sup>	95% CI <sup>c</sup>		Viral non-suppression status among children who had permanent teeth (n = 93)			Viral non-suppression status among children who had deciduous teeth (n = 68)			Viral non-suppression status among all children (n = 104)		
				Adjusted OR	95% CI		Adjusted OR	95% CI		Adjusted OR	95% CI	
<b>Dental caries status</b>												
DMFT <sup>d</sup>	0.99	0.90	1.10	1.00	0.90	1.12	-	-	-	-	-	-
dmft <sup>e</sup>	1.12	1.01	1.25 *	-	-	-	1.22	1.05	1.41 *	-	-	-
DMFT/dmft	1.10	1.02	1.19 *	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.12	1.03	1.23 *
<b>Sex</b>												
female	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
male	1.92	0.87	4.20	1.50	0.63	3.55	1.22	0.39	3.81	1.87	0.81	4.34
<b>Age (years)<sup>f</sup></b>												
3-10	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
11-15	0.88	0.40	1.91	1.00	0.38	2.65	3.88	0.97	15.4	1.49	0.59	3.78
<b>Duration of ART<sup>g</sup> (years)<sup>h</sup></b>												
<1	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
≥1	0.80	0.30	2.17	0.67	0.22	2.10	0.71	0.18	2.71	0.83	0.28	2.52
<b>Adherence to antiretroviral drugs in the past 30 days</b>												
poor/fair	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
good	0.86	0.25	3.01	0.83	0.23	2.97	0.69	0.08	6.25	0.75	0.20	2.86
very good	1.00	0.26	3.87	0.75	0.18	3.12	1.76	0.17	18.8	0.92	0.22	3.96
excellent	1.00	0.17	5.99	1.14	0.16	8.17	0.47	0.03	6.84	0.68	0.10	4.91

\*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01

<sup>a</sup>Viral load was a binary variable with a cut-off of log3.00 (=1000 copies/mL)

<sup>b</sup>OR, odds ratio

<sup>c</sup>CI, confidence interval

<sup>d</sup>DMFT, decayed, missing, or filled permanent teeth

<sup>e</sup>dmft, decayed, missing, or filled deciduous teeth

<sup>f</sup>The cut-off was set as 10 years old (median of mixed dentition)

<sup>g</sup>ART, antiretroviral therapy

<sup>h</sup>The cut-off was set as 1-year (most likely period attaining viral RNA thresholds in low- and middle-income countries [32])