Implications for Clinical Practice

Since visual inspection presented a good overall accuracy and high value for specificity, we recommend its utilization in clinical practice alone, with no need for an adjunct method. Regarding studies using well-established scoring systems, we found that they identified and associated caries lesions more accurately than studies that did not report the method used or that did not use their own criteria. The utilization of a validated visual scoring system has been proposed as a way of improving the detection of carious lesions in the proximal and occlusal surfaces. Consequently, this method could not be employed in the entire population, and we observed a better performance in studies using operative intervention as the reference standard on occlusal surfaces. However, studies of occlusal surfaces is operative intervention. Importantly, the use of detailed and validated methods opened by operative intervention to confirm that they were reliably extrapolated for clinical practice; as such, their use should be limited.

References


