data of patients in the observation groups showed that in the main and comparison groups this indicator significantly increased from the control in 17% and 10% in the comparison group (p<0.05). Analysis of the physicochemical properties of oral fluid, including its viscosity and acidity in patients treated according to our proposed scheme, showed their normalization.

**Conclusions.** Thus, the results of clinical and laboratory studies have shown that the proposed treatment and prevention complex using agents containing active peptide complexes and the use of anti-inflammatory gel with neovityn, improves oral hygiene, normalizes the physicochemical parameters of oral fluid and, as a consequence , helps to improve the condition of periodontal tissues and accelerate the recovery time of patients with chronic catarrhal gingivitis.

## **MORBIDITY OF COVID-19 AMONG CHILDREN**

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**Introduction.** The incidence of COVID-19 quickly spread to the continents and grew into a pandemic. However, among different age groups, the percentage of children is small (1%). Scientists have tried to understand this phenomenon.

Aim. Make an analysis of the incidence of covid among age groups.

**Materials and methods.** Study of scientific sources, reports of the WHO and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine on the research topic. Methods: epidemiological, analytical, statistical.

**Results and discussion.** Questions about the role of children and youth in the COVID-19 pandemic, according to scientists, have not been fully clarified. The fact that the virus is transmitted by most children asymptomatically can play an important epidemiological role in the potential spread of infection, as well as in the creation of so-called collective immunity. Children of the first age, adults and the elderly suffer from COVID-19 very severely.

In children over 11-12 years of age, the course of pathology is in many ways similar to the clinical picture of coronavirus in adults.

In children, regardless of gender, clinical symptoms are less pronounced. It was found that the highest viral load in the nasopharynx of children was in the first two days after the onset of symptoms, and was significantly higher than in adults treated in intensive care units with severe disease.

Receptors play a leading role in the reproduction of viruses. Compared to adolescents and adults, young children have been shown to have far fewer receptors through which the COVID-19 virus enters human cells. The reason is an increase in blood levels of interleukin 17A and interferon gamma, which protect the airways, which are primarily attacked by the virus.

**Conclusions.** The immune system in childhood responds quickly to the presence of coronavirus, neutralizing it. The leading role belongs to interleukin 17A and gamma interferon. It is their decrease with age that leads to severe clinical cases in adults and the elderly. Under conditions of prolonged circulation of the virus in the population, the result will be a strong adaptive defense to it. In this way, children will not get sick in adulthood.