

Assessing the degree of acceptance of dental treatments by children and adolescents through the use of behavioural treatment techniques

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper was to determine if behaviour management can modify in a positive manner the degree of acceptance of dental treatment in children and adolescents and to assess the influencing factors of the patients' behavioural pattern.

One of the cornerstones in practicing paediatric dentistry is the ability to guide children positively throughout their dental experience and encourage positive dental attitude in order to improve their oral and overall health. Anxiety associated with the dental procedures can be reflected in the child's behaviour. Therefore, it is important for dentists to evaluate psychological personal traits and to modify the management approach to reduce their anxiety.

A cross-sectional study was performed on 312 children aged 2 to 14 years (m.a. 6.44 ± 0.19 years) attending the Pedodontics Dental Clinic of the "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest, Romania for routine dental care. The improvement of the patients' behavioural pattern was attempted using the "tell-show-do" technique, positive reinforcement, ART technique, voice modulation, systematic desensitivation, non-verbal communication and behavioural modelling. Their behaviour was evaluated using Frankl's scale at every visit at the clinic. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 1.2 afp005.

A positive modification of the behavioural pattern was recorded in 93.7% of cases. The main factors influencing the behavioural pattern were age and the use of ART technique ($p < 0.05$).

Behavioural treatment can be a valuable tool in improving the acceptance of dental treatments in children and adolescents.

Madalina Croitoru has her expertise in paediatric dentistry and a passion for improving the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents. Her open manner and dedication towards handling difficult make her a valuable member of the Paediatric Department. Her area of research interest includes paediatric dentistry, children psychology.

Speaker Publications:

1. Shao A G, Kahabuka F K and Mbawalla H S (2016) Children's Behaviour in the Dental Setting According to Frankl Behaviour rating and their Influencing Factors. Journal of Dental Sciences 1(1):000103.
2. Arun S and Rishi T (2011) Behaviour Assessment of Children in Dental Settings: A Retrospective Study. International Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry 4(1): 35-39.
3. Adair S M, Waller J L, Schafer T E and Rockman R (2004) S survey of members of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry on their use of behavior management techniques. Pediatric Dental Journal 26(2):159-166.

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Biography: