

Do parenting styles affect children's oral health in Saudi Arabia?

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Abstract

The purpose of the study is to correlate the parenting styles of parents with the oral health of their children, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Study design: Two hundred and eighty healthy preschool children, who have never been to the dentist, were recruited. Parenting style was determined by the Parenting Style and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ). World Health Organization (WHO) criteria and simplified debris index (DI-S) were used for the diagnosis of dental caries and oral hygiene of the children respectively.

Two parenting styles were identified among Saudi parents; authoritative (94%, n = 265) and permissive (6%, n = 17). The majority of children were brushing by themselves (n = 130, 46.1%) and once per day (n = 163, 57.8%). Significant correlations were detected between parenting style and children's brushing times (P-value of 0.016) and the number of meals consumed by children (P-value of 0.031). The age of the child and oral hygiene score were significantly correlated to dental caries (P-value < 0.05).

Two parenting styles were identified among Saudi parents. Parenting style influenced the child's oral health but not significantly. Early childhood caries and fair to poor oral hygiene were commonly detected among children. Clinically interesting correlations were identified regarding factors affecting the child's oral health status.

Speaker Publications:

1. Alagla M A, Al Hussyeen A and Alhowaish L (2019) Do Parenting Styles Affect Children's Oral Health in Saudi Arabia? Cureus 11(10):e6002.
2. AlSadhan S A, Al-Jobair A M, Bafaqeeh M, Abusharifa H and Alagla M (2017) Dental and medical health status and oral health knowledge among visually impaired and sighted female schoolchildren in Riyadh: a comparative study. BMC oral health 17(1): 154.

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Biography:

Maram A Alagla is a senior pediatric dentistry doctoral candidate at King Saud University, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She has always been interested in early childhood caries, behavioral dental management of young children and parenting styles. Maram is eager to find solutions to young children's dental challenges and overall oral health.