

## OP16 PSYCHOLOGICAL DETERMINANTS OF ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT NEED AND DEMAND

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**AIMS:** To examine in a randomized, cross-sectional study a) how much of the variance in orthodontic treatment demand is explained by a set of psychological variables, b) if these contribute uniquely in explaining treatment demand, and c) how the psychological variables relate to assessed treatment need. The major aim was to put forward a model predicting treatment need and demand.

**SUBJECTS AND METHOD:** One-hundred and fifty adolescents, aged 13 years participated by completing a questionnaire developed for this age-group including measures of 'Perceived Malocclusion', 'Perceived Functional Limitation', 'Prioritizing Healthy and Straight Teeth', 'Psycho-Social Influence', 'Dental Self-Esteem', 'Global Self-Esteem', and 'Treatment Demand'. Occlusal status and treatment need based on the Dental Health Component of the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need grading was collected from dental journals. Path analysis was used to examine the relationship between the variables and how these predict treatment demand and treatment need.

**RESULTS:** Analyses showed that the measures used had high reliability and were intercorrelated, with some exceptions. More importantly path analyses revealed that a proposed model had good fit to the data. This path model provides a test of the unique effect of all included variables on treatment need and treatment demand. This model explained 33 per cent of the variance in treatment demand and 22 per cent of the variance in treatment need.

**CONCLUSION:** Orthodontic treatment need assessments should, apart from clinical estimation, include validated self-assessment measures.