

OP33 EVIDENCE BASED EFFICIENCY OF AN ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT: DO PSYCHOLOGY AND TREATMENT NEEDS HAVE ANY IMPACT?

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AIMS: To assess the quality of compliance in patients treated with removable appliances in relation to personal traits of both the patients and their caregivers.

SUBJECTS AND METHOD: Ninety six randomly selected patients aged 9-12 years, treated with removable appliances. In order to evaluate the temperamental and personality traits of the patients' and their caregivers', as well as the latter's attitude to the children, suitable psychological tests were applied. The Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need, Dental Health Component (IOTN DHC) enabled assessment of the treatment needs of every patient. Thera Mon[®] electronic sensors mounted in the appliances allowed objective control of the patients' compliance.

RESULTS: Statistical analysis revealed strong positive correlation between appliance wear time and the caregivers' generalized sense of efficacy, conscientiousness and the severity of requirements imposed on the child. As for the children themselves, their emotionality correlated negatively with their compliance. The patients with low (IOTN DHC=2) and high (IOTN DHC=5) levels of treatment need presented statistically poorer and better cooperation respectively, in comparison with patients with a moderate level of treatment need (IOTN DHC = 3 or 4).

CONCLUSION: Cooperation of children treated with removable appliances may be foreseen based on the patients' and their caregivers' traits as well as on objective assessment of the patient's treatment needs. Objective evaluation of the patient's cooperation and psychological tests may be valuable tools for re-assessment of the paradigm of early orthodontic treatment.