Oral health of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder


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Abstract

This study assessed and compared oral health and oral-health behaviours among children with and without attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The study included 31 children, 12–18 yr of age, with ADHD and 31 age- and gender-matched children without ADHD. Clinical data were recorded by a trained and calibrated examiner for caries, traumatic dental injuries, periodontal health, tooth wear, and salivary function. A questionnaire was also given to parents or caregivers about the oral health habits and behaviours of these children. Data were compared using Mann–Whitney U-tests and chi-square tests. No significant differences were found between children, with or without ADHD, in caries extent or prevalence, dental trauma prevalence, prevalence of periodontal disease or plaque, tooth wear, or unstimulated salivary flow. Children with ADHD had a significantly higher percentage of sites with gingival bleeding, as well as a higher frequency of parent-reported dislike of dentists, bruxism, history of assisted toothbrushing, and toothbrushing duration <1 min. They also had higher attendance at government dental clinics. The findings indicate that children with ADHD have poorer oral hygiene and more adverse oral-health attitudes and behaviours than do children without ADHD.