

Comparison of the effect of pharmacotherapy and neuro-feedback therapy on oral health of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

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J Clin Exp Dent. 2018;10(4):e306-11.

doi:10.4317/jced.54586

Abstract

Background:

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a chronic and progressive mental disorder related to the childhood period. This study aims to compare the oral health of two groups of ADHD children: those under pharmacotherapy and those under neuro-feedback therapy.

Material and Methods:

72 ADHD children (aged 6–12) were divided into two 36 member groups: The pharmacotherapy group and the neuro-feedback therapy group. Unstimulated salivary flow (USF), DMFT, and plaque index were assessed in these children. Statistical analysis was carried out on the data with the independent t-test, which was performed using SPSS 16. The significance level of the study was $p < 0.05$.

Results:

In this study, the USF of ADHD children who used Ritalin was found to be significantly less than that of the neuro-feedback group (1.25 ± 1.21 vs. 1.91 ± 1.16 ml/min; $p=0.002$). Also, the plaque index (5.9 ± 3.1 vs. 3.94 ± 1.9 ; $p=0.018$) and DMFT scores ($39\% \pm 9\%$ vs. $31\% \pm 9\%$; $p=0.018$) were significantly higher for the pharmacotherapy group.

Conclusions:

Neuro-feedback therapy is preferable to Ritalin treatment for ADHD children in terms of their oral health status.