Oral health status and its relation with medication and dental fear in children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder


Abstract

OBJECTIVE:
The objective of this study was to determine the oral-dental health and its relation with medication and dental fear in a group of Turkish children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

SUBJECTS AND METHODS:
The levels of dental fear of children were determined with The Dental Subscale of Children’s Fear Survey Schedule (CFSS-DS). The oral and dental health evaluation was performed. This study included a total of 117 children aged between 6 and 15 years and they were examined under two groups as "ADHD" (n = 59) and "Control" (n = 58). Ora-dental health variables were compared between the groups and were also analyzed in accordance with dental fear and medication.

RESULTS:
ADHD children and the control group exhibited similar CFSS-DS scores (15-32). No significant differences existed in df(t)/df(s), DMF(T)/DMF(S), d/D values, and presence of the white spot lesions. ADHD children's Mutans streptococci and Lactobacillus quantities were found significantly higher than the control group. The incidence of parafunctional habits of the ADHD children was also found high.

CONCLUSIONS:
ADHD children that were medicated exhibited similar dental caries prevalence and periodontal health status. Although ADHD group had similar dental-periodontal health status and dental fear level with the control group and using ADHD medicines did not make a significant effect on the ora-dental health parameters, the patients should be carefully followed up because they were categorized in high caries risk groups.