

Evaluating the Various Reasons and Causes for Odontophobia Among Saudi Parents Accompanying Pediatric Patients at King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

Study Design: Cross-sectional

Objective: This study evaluated the various reasons and causes for odontophobia among Saudi parents accompanying pediatric patients at King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was carried out on a total number of 300 parents (Male=150; Female=150) who participated in the study with age ranges from 30- to 55-year-old to know the various reasons and causes for odontophobia among Saudi parents accompanying pediatric patients attending dental clinic in college of dentistry, King Khalid University, Abha. The Questionnaire was given to Saudi parents accompanying pediatric patients attending dental clinics and data was collected from them. The data were entered and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS 20). A P-value of less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Results: The majority of participants, 189(63%) were, said that they have experience of dental fear and anxiety in their lifetime period. 255(85%) agreed that they have come across one of their relatives or friends having the fear of dental treatment. Parents experienced various reasons for the cause of their dental fear, one of the major factors for dental fear they told was having the dentist remove their tooth (26%). Parents 155 (52%) stated that they visited dental clinic for treatment very often and 66(22%) visited rarely.

Conclusions: Recognizing the level of fear that prevents patients from seeking dental care and understanding the occurrence of dental anxiety hold crucial importance in dental practice. While only a small percentage of subjects reported dental fear or would consider refusing dental consultations, assessing dental fear provides valuable insights for dental practitioners. However, there is a call for further research and efforts to enhance the comprehension of dental anxiety and behaviors during dental visits.

Keywords: Odontophobia, Fear and anxiety, Dental visit, Saudi parents, Children, Saudi Arabia

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