Anxiety of mothers of children in preventive pediatric dental care.

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Abstract

These researches aimed to assess the degree of maternal anxiety generally and specifically in relation to the dental situation, and their behavior during pediatric dental care of children. Children on dental treatment, even when it is preventive and, therefore, with less potential to cause pain and discomfort, must receive dentist support, to enable better adaptation to dental treatment, and also help to have lower degrees of maternal anxiety on this kind of situation.

Key words:

maternal anxiety, dental fear.

Introduction

Women had significantly higher scores than men, but studies investigating the level of maternal anxiety when the child is in care pediatric dentistry are few reported in the literature, so the importance of this study. The sample included 110 mothers of children aged between 12 and 60 months with oral health condition requiring only preventive treatment, met in the First Care Health Program developed by Cepae - FOP - Unicamp. At each visit, the dentist regularly records observational data regarding the mother-child dyad behavior. The data about anxiety and dental fear from their mothers were measured using IDATE trace/condition, DAS, DFS and from their clinical records. The data was analyzed on distribution and frequency.

Results and Discussion

Results showed that a considerable part of the mothers (69.8%) had a low level of anxiety to dental treatment as the instrument Dental Anxiety Scale (DAS). As for the instrument Dental Fear Survey (DFS), 81.1% of mothers had an average level of fear of dental treatment. When children are in dental care, 58.5% of mothers had a mean anxiety level (IDATE - condition). What about IDATE - trait, 64.1% had medium level of anxiety.

Conclusions

Children in dental treatment, even when preventive, appear anxious, as well as their mothers. Assess the state of anxiety of mothers and detect varying degrees of behavior, to propose intervention strategies and prevention of anxiety and behavior.

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