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Characteristic of Malocclusion among Saudi special need group children

Thamer Alkhadra

King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

Objective: The present study analyzed the characteristics of malocclusions, occlusal traits among special health care needs (SHCN) children with Down syndrome (DS) and Autism Disorder (AD) in Riyadh city, Saudi Arabia.

Methodology: One hundred Down syndrome and one hundred Autistic Disorder children from five rehabilitation centers from in and around Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were included in the study. Any children with history of ongoing medical treatment, extraction or orthodontic treatment were excluded from the study. Out of the 200 patients examined, 131 were males and 69 were females and the age of the children ranged from 6-14 years. The children were examined for malocclusion characteristics using the Angle's classification of malocclusion and also other occlusal traits such as over jet, over bite, cross bite and open bite was also determined. The data obtained were analyzed using SPSS v.16 to generate descriptive statistics for each variable.

Result: The analyzed data of right and left permanent molar relation showed higher incidence of Class III malocclusion (66%) in Down syndrome children as compared to (3-4 %) in Autism Disorder children. The Autism Disorder children presented with higher percentage of Class I malocclusion (40-41%) as compared to (10-14%) with Down syndrome children. During examination of the primary molars, the analyzed data showed that left primary molar had more mesial shift in Autism Disorder children as compared to Down syndrome children.

Conclusion: Down syndrome children had high incidence of class III malocclusion and Autistic children had high incidence of Class I malocclusion. Overall, the Down syndrome children were more prone for malocclusion.

Clinical Significance: This study provide database for health professionals in Saudi Arabia in regard to malocclusion of autistics and Down syndrome patients.

drbabyteeth@aol.com