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Prevalence of Malocclusion in Abha, Saudi Arabia

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Introduction: Prevalence of occlusal deviation provides valuable information for planning the appropriate preventive and treatment programs. The purpose of the study was to assess the status of occlusion among adolescents in Abha, Saudi Arabia.

Materials & Methods: This study was conducted at Abha, Saudi Arabia. A total of 1,998 Saudis (998 males and 1000 females) of mean age 14.13±0.99 years were randomly selected from 15 schools in different areas of Abha city to determine the status of their occlusion. The examiners assessed molar and canine relationships, spacing and crowding, overjet, overbite, anterior open bite, anterior and posterior cross bite. These occlusal parameters were examined by two experienced examiners using mouth mirror, small light source and calibrated fiber ruler.

Results: 61% of Saudis presented with Class I molar relationship while 16.3% and 7.7% of the subjects had Class II and III molar relationship, respectively. The most prevalent canine relationship was Class I (62.8%), followed by Class II (11.6%) and Class III (5.6%). Normal overjet and overbite was observed in 75.8% and 74.6% of the sample, respectively. The prevalence of malocclusion traits was crowding (26.6%), Spacing (20.6%), excessive overjet (19.5%), excessive overbite (19.4%), posterior crossbite (8.5%), and anterior open bite (6.1%).

Conclusion: This study revealed predominance of Class I molar and canine relationships among Saudi adolescents in Abha city. Normal overjet and overbite were frequent findings. The most prevalent malocclusion trait was crowding followed by spacing.

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