

Table 1: Distribution of children surveyed groups depending on the reasons for the visit to the dentist

Reason Group	Preventive Dental examination		Defect		Pain		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Control group	21	42.0	20	40.0	9	18.0	50	100
Group 1	1	3.3	16	53.3	13	43.4	30	100
Group 2	3	10.0	18	60.0	9	30.0	30	100
Group 3	3	10.0	18	60.0	9	30.0	30	100
Statistical significance	$\chi^2=25.70, df=6, P<0.001$							

Statistically significant difference was found in the distribution of groups depending on the reason for the visit to the dentist ($P < 0.001$). While in the control group patients visiting dentist for prophylactic examination in the other groups leading cause is a „defect of the tooth noticed by the parent or the child”, followed by „pain“.

4. Discussion

These results show that in children without premature loss of deciduous teeth, the preventive oral health care is much more better than in children from other groups (with premature loss of deciduous teeth), where visits to the dentist are mainly related with carious lesions and pain. Similar results have been reported in some other studies [8,9]. Pain was the predominant reason for visiting a dentist for not a small percentage of children from the examined groups. But for the majority of them, the decayed teeth is the main reason for visiting dental offices. The pain is the predominant reason for dental visits has been shown in many other studies [1,8,10,11,12]. Dental pain adversely affects the quality of life, normal functioning, and daily living of people, and most dental visits are aimed at immediate relief of pain. Patients often present themselves for dental care at the later stages of dental disease when overt symptoms such as pain and extreme discomfort appear, rather than earlier, i.e., a problem-oriented visit rather than a prevention-oriented one.

Only a small percentage of the examined children had visited a dentist for routine oral examination and most of them are from the control group (without premature tooth extraction). This shows that people do not believe in the value of regular dental visits, and they have very poor preventive practices. The findings of the study showed that the „defect noticed by parents“ was the main reason for visiting a dentist for the examined groups. As flag bearers of oral health, dental practitioners across locations must be willing not only to provide dental care to patients but also to educate them regarding the importance of regular dental care, discuss barriers for dental care, and promote attitudinal changes towards a positive health-seeking behavior. An active assessment of and attention to factors that facilitate and hinder dental service use is crucial while formulating oral health policies.

5. Conclusion

Majority of the children with premature tooth loss were „problem-oriented visitors“ rather than „prevention oriented

visitors“. The parents and dentists have to emphasize the prevention of this children.

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