

Study on Child's Perception of Their Dentists

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Abstract: *Aim: To study the attitude of a child towards their dentist. Objective: 1) To assess the attitude of kids towards their dentist. 2) To have a better understanding about a child's perception of their dentist. Materials and Method: 1) A prepared questionnaire was provided to the kids. 2) 100 kids below the age of 13 yrs were taken for the study.*

Keywords: dentist, children, first dental visit, perception

1. Introduction

For some visit to the dentist is not an extraordinary event. For others it can be a terrifying experience that they will only put themselves through when the agony associated with a dental problem becomes unbearable. Fear of dentists and dental treatment has been considered a major hindrance to the delivery of quality dental services.¹ Surveys indicate that between 5% and 6% of the population and 16% of school age children have a fear of dentists.

It is important for dentists to establish a friendly relationship with patients, especially children, in order to combat patient fears and to deliver effective and efficient treatment. Creating a strong rapport on the child's first visit helps to create a comfortable atmosphere in which the child does not feel threatened.³ Children often make judgments about their dentist based on his or her appearance and often record and analyse their dentist's every word, movement and gesture during a dental appointment.⁴

A friendly relationship with the dentist can help patients approach the dentist easily with their problems

2. Materials and Method

The study was conducted among 100 kids below the age of 13 yrs. A questionnaire comprising of 10 questions, pertaining to CHILD'S PERCEPTION OF THEIR DENTISTS, was prepared. The questionnaire thus prepared is shown in fig. 1, on the next page.

1) Have you visited a dentist before?

a) Yes B) No

2) Do you like your dentist?

a) Yes B) No

3) Does your dentist treat you well?

a) Yes B) No

4) Does your dentist explain the treatment to you before starting the procedure?

a) Yes B) No

5) Has any of your friends visited a dentist till now?

a) Yes B) No

6) Are you scared to visit a dentist?

a) Yes B) No

7) Does your parent force you to visit the dentists?

a) Yes B) No

8) Do you think dental procedures are painful?

a) Yes B) No

9) Does the dental clinic make you anxious?

a) Yes B) No

10) Will you revisit your dentist?

a) Yes B) No

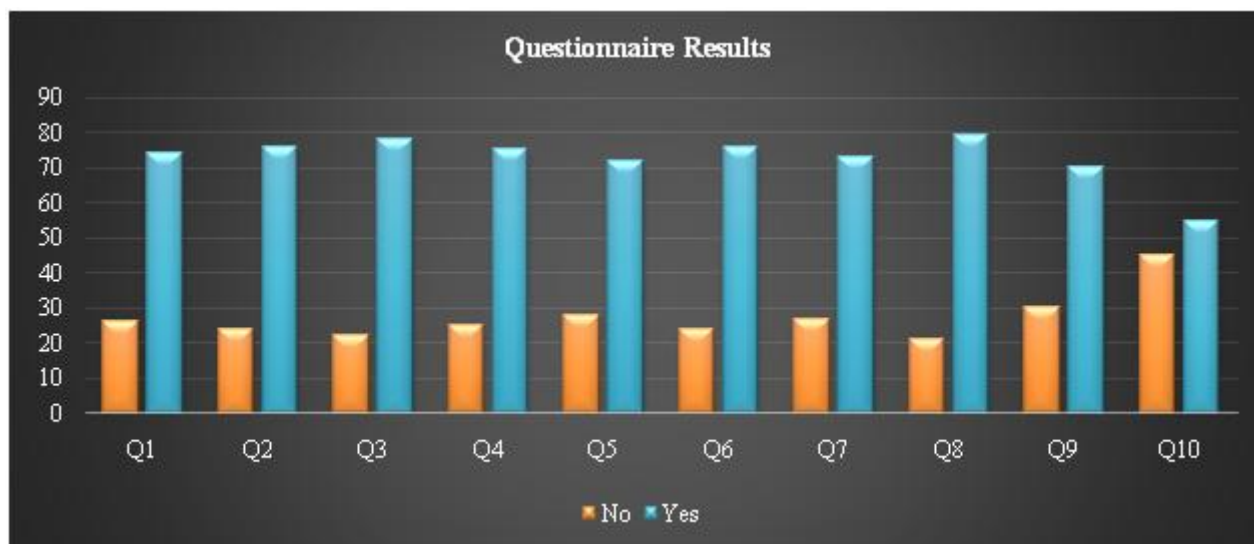
Figure 1

3. Result and Discussion

A total of 100 kids below the age of 13 yrs were given the questionnaire, the results are summarized as follows:

Out of a total of 100 kids, 74 kids have visited a dentist before and 26 of them haven't visited a dentist before. 76 kids like dentists and 24 of them dislike them. 78% of the kids say that the dentist treats them well remaining 22 disagree. 75 kids agree with their dentist explaining the treatment before starting and the remaining 25 disagree. 72% of the kids agree that their friends have visited dentist and the remaining 28% of the kids friends have not been to a dentist before. 76% of the kids are not scared of the dentist but the remaining 24% are scared. Around 73% of the parents force their kids to visit dentist and the remaining 27% of the kids are willing to visit the dentist. 79% of the kids think that the dental procedures are painful and the remaining 21% disagree. 70% of the kids get anxious when visiting a dental clinic and the remaining 30% of them are not anxious. Out of 100 kids only 55% (55 kids) would revisit a dentist the remaining 45 would prefer not to revisit a dentist.

Child's Perception of their Dentists



4. Conclusion

The results of this study presents new in site about children's perception of dentist ,Children have strong perception and preferences regarding their dentist and hence it is very important to pay attention to the small details to develop a better patient doctor relationship, This helps to create a positive note on the child to carry out further dental procedures.

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