

Does Malocclusion Affect Adolescents' Social Life?

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Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the social impact and self-perception of malocclusion among adolescents, and to investigate whether types and severity of malocclusion have any effect on adolescents' social life.

Method: The sample size was 886 males and females living in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, chosen from middle and high schools' students, ages ranging from 12 to 19 years. After completion of the questionnaire to assess social impact, all participants were examined using IOTN; Dental Health Component (DHC) and Aesthetic Component (AC).

Results: The results showed that there is a highly significant difference between the means of both social impact and self-perceived need scores according to gender and according to the severity of treatment need as assessed by the examiner using IOTN.

Malocclusion has a negative effect on social life. Anterior spacing, anterior open bite, increased overjet, and crowding—in this order—have the most negative impact on adolescent social life.

Conclusion: Orthodontists must not only concentrate on the functional and oral health improvement; psychological and social impairment from malocclusion also needs great attention.

Keywords: Malocclusion, Social impact, Adolescent.

Biography:

Dr. Fadia Al-Hummayani works as an Assistant Professor and Consultant Orthodontist. She teaches both the undergraduate, Saudi Board and Master dental students at King Abdulaziz University/ College of Dentistry. Completed her Master's and Clinical Certificate in Orthodontics from King Saud University/ Dental School, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1999. She got the Assistance Professor position through research and publications in reputed journals in 2006. She won the Aesthetic Dentistry MENA Award 2010 as the best treated case in the Middle East and North Africa organized by Emirate Medical Association (EMA - Dental Society) and CAPP (Centre for Advance Professional Practices) in United Arab of Emirates, Dubai.