

Assessing the Danger Factors Correlated With Dental Fear: An Observational Study

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Abstract : The goal of the present study was to analyze the risk factors regarding dental fear. This observational study was conducted during the period of February 2020 - April 2022 in Albania. The sample was composed of 200 participants, of which 40% were males and 60% were females. The participants' age range varied from 35 to 75 years old. We divided them into four age groups: 35-45, 46-55, 56-65, and 66-75 years old. Statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 23.0. Data were scrutinized by the Post Hoc LSD test in analysis of variance (ANOVA). The $P \leq 0.05$ values were considered significant. Data analysis included Confidence Interval (95% CI). The prevailing age range in the sample was mostly from 55 to 65 years old, 35.6% of the patients. In all, 50% of the patients had extreme fear about the fact that the dentist may be infected with Covid-19, 12.2% of them had low dental fear, and 37.8% had extreme dental fear. However, data collected from the current study indicated that a large proportion of patients 49.5% of them had high dental fear regarding the dentist not respecting the quarantine due to COVID-19, in comparison with 37.2% of them who had low dental fear and 13.3% who had extreme dental fear. The present study confirmed that 22.2% of the participants had an extreme fear of poor hygiene practices of the dentist that have been associated with the transmission of COVID-19 infection, 57.8% had high dental fear, and 20% of them had low dental fear. The present study showed that 50% of the patients stated that another factor that causes extreme fear was that the patients feel pain after interventions in the oral cavity. Strong associations were observed between dental fear and pain 95% CI; 0.24-0.52, P-value $< .0001$. The results of the present study confirmed strong associations between dental fear and the fact that the dentist may be infected with Covid-19 (95% CI; 0.46-0.70, P-value $< .0001$). Similarly, the analysis of the present study demonstrated that there was a statistically significant correlation between dental fear and poor hygiene practices of the dentist with 95% CI; 0.82-1.02, P-value $< .0001$. On the basis of our statistical data analysis, the dentist did not respect the quarantine due to COVID-19 having a significant impact on dental fear with a P-value of $< .0001$. This study shows important risk factors that significantly increase dental fear.

Keywords : Covid-19, dental fear, pain, past dreadful experiences

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