

Anxiety and Stress as a Function of Dental Disfigurement

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Abstract : Dental Disfigurement is a major problem for a person who is suffering from Malocclusion. Malocclusion, is a technical name given to crowded, irregular or protruded teeth. In the present investigation the Anxiety and Stress are studied with reference to Dental Disfigurement among Adolescents. The 8 SQ Questionnaire (Cattell,1976)was administered to 50 Male(age range 12-20 years) and 50 Female(age range 12-20 years) patients to investigate anxiety and stress with an equal number of normal's having no dental disfigurement of teeth. Both the groups, experimental and control were matched on age and sex. It was found that experimental group, i. e. orthodontic patients ($M=14.34, s= 4.99$) have significantly greater anxiety than their normal counterparts ($M=11.8, s= 4.20$) $F=15.04, p<.01$. The sex differences were not observed. However, with reference to stress it was observed that it was significantly greater in orthodontic patients ($M=15.11, s= 4.93$) as compared to normal's ($M=12.83, s=4.87$). The gender differences on stress were also observed. The females showed greater stress ($M=15.06$) as compared to males ($M=12.88$), $F=11.55, p.<1$. Overall Malocclusion was found to have significant effect on anxiety and stress.

Keywords : anxiety, malocclusion, orthodontic patients, stress

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