

Teenagers' Decisions to Undergo Orthodontic Treatment: A Qualitative Study

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Abstract : Objective: The aim of this study was to describe teenagers' decisions to undergo orthodontic treatment through a qualitative study. Materials and methods: Twenty-three patients (12 girls), aged 12-18 years, at a dental clinic in Sanandaj the western part of Iran participated. Face-to-face and semi-structured interviews and two focus group discussions were held to gather data. Data analyzed by the grounded theory method. Results: 'Decision-making' was the core category. During the data analysis four main themes were developed: 'being like everyone else', 'being diagnosed', 'maintaining the mouth' and 'cultural-social and environmental factors'. Conclusions: cultural- social and environmental factors have crucial role in decision-making to undergo orthodontic treatment. The teenagers were not fully conscious of these external influences. They thought their decision to undergo orthodontic treatment is independent while it is related to cultural- social and environmental factors.

Keywords : decision-making, qualitative study, teenager, orthodontic treatment

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