

Prevalence of bruxism in children receiving treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a pilot study

Ghadah A. Malki* / Khalid H. Zawawi** / Marcello Melis*** / Christopher V. Hughes****

The objective of this study was to evaluate reported bruxism among children affected by attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Thirty children diagnosed with ADHD and 30 healthy age and gender matched controls participated in the study. All subjects were examined for dental attrition, and the parents were asked for signs and symptoms of bruxism in their children using a questionnaire.

Prevalence of oral parafunction was evaluated comparing ADHD children taking medications, ADHD children not taking medications, and controls. Subjects affected by ADHD and pharmacologically treated showed higher occurrence of bruxism compared to subjects affected by ADHD not taking medicines and controls; and within the ADHD group taking medications, CNS-stimulants have been associated with such side effect more frequently than the other drugs.

* Ghadah A. Malki, BDS, DScD, Pediatric Dentist, Dental Center, King Fahad Hospital, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

** Khalid H. Zawawi, BDS, Postdoctoral Resident, Department of Oral Biology, Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston University, Boston, MA.

*** Marcello Melis, DMD, Rpharm, Private Practice, Cagliari, Italy.

**** Christopher V. Hughes, DMD, PhD, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston University.