

The effect of the socio-economic status on the child/patient behavior in the dental clinic

Opinion

In order to evaluate the patient positive or negative behavior in the dental clinic we need to consider his socio-economic status and in this regard, few points are in the main focus of the study few questions to answer

- Is the level of pain/discomfort tolerance affected by the socio-economic status
- Where is the dental treatment placed in the daily schedule of the patient
- What priority is given to the dental treatment expenses
- Is the kind of the requested treatment related to the socio-economic status
- What is the role of public health institutions and the insurance companies

After more than 32 years of practice in more than one country, I have noticed that the overall reactions toward the dental treatments differ in the same society from one socio-economic level to another, poorer patients are more tolerant and of better acceptance to the discomfort of the dental treatment. The personal experience is an important factor determining the negative/positive reactions keeping a clear decalage with another trench of the society. In about 83% of the poorer population, the level of fear is less, using the standard patterns so fear evaluation, compared with other classes of the society. They are more tolerant of the overall discomfort of the dental treatment. The personal bubble seems to be less prominent. 90% or more of them seek an immediate solution for a ravaging pain regardless the esthetic outcome, and the oral functions come in a second importance. The

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economic status plays a great role in rendering health care services and this role should be minimized by the public authority or insurance companies. As health care providers, we should do our best of service, regardless the cost/effective ratio which can lead us to practice extraction on every toothache taking advantage of a cooperative and tolerant poor patient.

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Conflicts of interest

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