“Evaluation of oral health status and influential factors in children with autism”

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DEN 1200 – D202

March 19 2019

Introduction

**1. What is the authors central purpose? Is it clearly stated?**

The authors central purpose is clearly stated in the introduction. The article central purpose is assessing oral health status and influential factors in children with ASD in comparison with children without ASD living in the Western Mediterranean Region of Turkey.

**2. Write a 150- 200 word summary of the article that accurately conveys the content of the article.**

This article conveys children with ASD have been affected by many negative factors in regards of oral care. Many of these ASD children are not being shown the proper oral hygiene care or are not recurring dental services as children without ASD. This cross-sectional study was conducted on children aged 6 through 14 studying at an elementary school in the same region with and without ASD, 111 healthy children and 126 children with ASD that meet certain criteria. In the study, they found that many of these ASD children were connected to oral problems such as gum diseases, bruxism, self‐inflicted injury, dry mouth, nonnutritive chewing, tongue thrusting and caries. Many of the results shown in charts show child with ASD are greatly affected in many factors thus children with ASD need to be given more effort and patience when providing oral care. Dentist and dental professionals should be more aware of this fact and encourage to improve their oral hygiene care with prevention, treatment and early initiation of special education for these ASD children.

**3. Does the work meet the standards to be considered an appropriate/academic/scholarly source? Justify your choice**

The work does meet the standards to be an appropriate source because it has a great amount of information. Starting with the format of the article the abstract gave a clear and straight forward statement what the article will be about stating what kind of study was conducted. Throughout the article the study had a good number of sample size with kids with and without ASD each had certain criteria that needed to be meet to be in the study. The results were also clearly stated in many charts that were easily to understand and correlated with the central purpose of the study.

**4. Are the qualifications of the author(s) appropriate for an academic article? Briefly describe the authors’ qualifications**

The author “*Z Kırzıoğlu”* is most appropriate for an academic article because the author “Z Kırzıoğlu” has written many other dental related articles such as associations with periodontal disease etc. The author is also a professor in T.C. Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi department of pedodontics. As well-known as Dr. Zuhal Kirzioğlu. The second author “S Önol” has also done some research in the medical field.

**5. When was the work published?**

This work was published in April 02,2018 in the Nigerian Journal of Clinical Practice.

Methods

**1. Is the experimental design clearly described? Describe the design in your own words.**

The experiment design is clearly described in this study the design is experimental because the researches are manipulating conditions which was picking certain individuals for the experiment. For example, they had questionnaires and interviews conducted that needed to be fully completed before having the children be part of the study group also the children with ASD had certain criteria to be part of the study as well. Throughout the study they would have certain criteria that need to be reached to continue the study.

**2. Have the possible influences on the findings been identified and controls instituted? Describe and evaluate the use of controls and possible influences**

The possible influences on the findings were identified in the study some of the influences were distribution of food and eating problem. Children with ASD kept these foods in their mouth in a longer period than a “healthy kid” would these nutritional problems leads to increased risk of caries. The control group were children without ASD, they were compared with ASD children based on the influenced factor of distribution of food and the researcher shows how ASD children are receiving more of these unhealthy foods was a reward rather than “healthy children” this is where you can see a correlation of these ASD children having more oral health problems rather than a child without ASD.

**3. Has the sample been appropriately selected (if applicable)? Describe the sample used in the study, and evaluate its appropriateness.**

The sample was appropriately selected in this cross‐sectional study because they had two groups, a control group and an experimental group which where 111 healthy children in the control sample and 126 children with ASD in the experimental group. The study had a large sample size of children with and without ASD. Although the study was not a random sampling the researches explained all the characteristics of the sample they took of these children such as age and conditions.

**4. Is the experimental therapy compared appropriately to the control therapy? Describe and evaluate the use of the control group.**

The experimental therapy is compared appropriately to the control therapy because the control group which are the “heathy children” are used to see if there are similar oral health contributing factors to ASD children. Both groups had the same age group and were experimented on dental history, food distribution, oral examination findings, plaque index, surface of decay and filling in primary teeth and surface of decay and filling in permanent teeth.

**5. Is the investigation of sufficient duration? Evaluate, and explain your reasoning.**

The investigation duration was within a period of 4 months from March to July 2016. The duration of this study is a sufficient because it gives a general understanding what could happen in a short time comparing two groups. And we can see based on those 4 months there can many negative effects to ASD children when there is no proper oral hygiene care taught by dental professionals. This also allows us to understand how a short period of the study found many factors causing problems in children with ASD.

Results and Discussion

**6. Have the research questions or hypothesis been answered? Restate the research questions and/or hypotheses in your own words, and describe if or how they are answered.**

The hypotheses of the article were what factors affect children with ASD oral heath compared to children without ASD. This was answered by a cross‐sectional study that was conducted in two steps one a questionnaire and second an interview. They had two groups of children one with ASD children and one without ASD and they compared both groups with many factors such as dental history, dental visits, Oral hygiene care, etc.…this helped them chart the results and compare to conclude or a discussion.

**7. Review the results in light of the stated objectives. Does the study reveal what the researcher intended?**

When reviewing the results the study does reveal what the researcher intended because the study was initially done to evaluate oral health status and influential factors of ASD children. The results show how the researcher studied/observed the oral health of ASD children compared to “heathy children” and reveled that there is a significant difference between the two. The researcher also researched related factors that affect children with ASD such as conditions during a dental visit, distribution of food and its effect on caries or decay comparing ASD children and “healthy children” ASD children were most effected with more caries and extracted permanent teeth. The results shown in charts and written both reveal what the author was initially researching.

**8. Do you agree or disagree with the article and findings? Explain why?**

I agree with the articles findings specially with how the results are stated. In the study, we see that they compared both ASD children and “Heathy kids” and the findings were as expected, where these ASD children are being affected negatively in their oral hygiene care and while being in a dental office. I can agree that ASD children should be given more effort and attention when being seen in a dental office this will improve their oral health. I also agree that early prevention will help them in many ways and this could be done with dental professionals being more aware about ASD children.

**9. What would you change in the article? Why? Think outside of the box. What would you add or delete.**

What I would change in the article would be the inclusion criteria they made for ASD children to participate in the study. I believe that the study should include all types of ASD children because many of these ASD children don’t like to be touched in the mouth or be up close to them and in this study, they picked children who allowed the touching in their face. There can be more negative factors on other ASD children that do not follow that criteria. The study should have been done at random where they picked ASD children based on their age but not based on what they are limited to.