

SOCIO-BEHAVIORAL FACTORS IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DENTAL CARIES

Spinei Aurelia, PhD, ScD, assoc. prof., Department of pediatric dentistry „Ion Lupan”, „Nicolae Testemițanu” SUMPh

Melnic Carolina, student, Faculty of stomatology, „Nicolae Testemițanu” SUMPh

Dînga-Racila Laura, student, Faculty of stomatology, „Nicolae Testemițanu” SUMPh

Background. Dental caries in children is one of the most common chronic conditions worldwide, resulting from the interaction between biological factors and socio-behavioral determinants, largely influenced by the family environment.

Objective of the study. To evaluate the relationship between socio-behavioral factors within the family environment and the occurrence of dental caries in children.

Material and Methods. The clinical study included 96 children aged 7–11 years examined at the „Onisifor Ghibu” Theoretical High School in Orhei municipality. The sample was divided into two equal groups: the study group (Gr₁) – 48 children with carious lesions, and the control group (Gr₀) – 48 children without dental caries. Dental status was assessed using epidemiological indices of caries experience (DMF and DMFS). Socio-behavioral determinants were analyzed through a questionnaire addressed to parents, assessing the frequency of toothbrushing, the use of fluoride-containing products, and access to dental services. The study was conducted in accordance with ethical principles, and children participated after written informed consent was obtained from parents or legal guardians.

Results. The sample distribution showed a predominance of children from rural areas (58.33%) compared with urban areas (41.67%). Caries experience was higher in rural areas, where the mean DMF index was 3.08 ± 2.21 compared with 2.42 ± 1.47 in urban areas, and the DMFS index was 5.12 ± 4.31 in rural areas versus 3.43 ± 2.73 in urban areas. Children in Gr₀ brushed their teeth at least twice daily, with parental supervision of oral hygiene. In contrast, children in Gr₁ brushed irregularly and avoided preventive dental visits.

Conclusions. The family environment significantly influences children’s oral hygiene behaviors and their attendance at preventive dental visits. Promoting oral health education within the family may help reduce the prevalence of dental caries among children.

Keywords: dental caries, children, socio-behavioral factors, family environment.

ACUPRESURA AURICULARĂ ÎN TRATAMENTUL DURERII LA PACIENȚII CU DISFUNȚIA MUȘCHILOR MASTICATORI

Melnic Corina, studentă, Facultatea medicină generală, USMF „Nicolae Testemițeanu”

Bordeniuc Gheorghe, dr. șt. med., asist. univ., Catedra de stomatologie interdisciplinară și reabilitare orală, USMF „Nicolae Testemițeanu”

Lacusta Victor, dr. hab. șt. med., prof. univ., Academician, șef catedră, Catedra de medicină alternativă și complementară, USMF „Nicolae Testemițeanu”

Introducere. Disfuncția mușchilor masticatori este asociată cu durerea și disconfortul subiectiv, care mențin și agravează dereglările în sistemul stomatognat. Acutizarea durerii frecvent este asociată cu prezența factorilor stresogeni, emoționali și comportamentali, ceea ce conduce la afectarea calității vieții pacienților. În aceste condiții este actuală elaborarea metodelor de corecție eficiente, sigure și accesibile pentru pacienți.

Scopul lucrării. Studiarea eficienței de corecție a durerii la pacienții cu disfuncția mușchilor masticatori sub influența presopuncturii auriculare cu aplicarea semințelor (EAR-SEEDS), urmărind atât ameliorarea simptomelor dureroase, cât și impactul asupra stării generale a pacientului.

Material și metode. Au fost studiați în total 40 de pacienți, dintre care 20 pacienți cu stimularea punctelor Ashi și 20 pacienți cu stimularea punctelor topic-patogene (punctele auriculare miogene, antialgice, vegetotrope, osteo-artrogene). Durata tratamentului a fost de 5 zile consecutive, iar durerea a fost apreciată prin aplicarea scalei VAS (0-10 puncte) înainte și după auriculoterapie.

Rezultate. Eficiența punctelor Ashi: $6,8 \pm 0,3$ puncte înainte de tratament, $5,4 \pm 0,4$ puncte după tratament. În cazul tratamentului topic-patogen: $7,1 \pm 0,4$ puncte înainte și $3,9 \pm 0,5$ puncte după tratament. Punctele Ashi au fost depistate prin aplicarea sondei auriculare în sectorul A ($0-30^\circ$, zona psihoemoțională) – 9 pacienți (45%); Sectorul E ($120-150^\circ$, zona atlanto-occipitală) – 4 pacienți (20%); Sectorul G ($180-210^\circ$, zona facială) – 7 pacienți (35%).

Concluzii. La pacienții cu disfuncția mușchilor masticatori predomină apariția punctelor Ashi în zonele psihoemoționale, ceea ce reflectă implicarea mecanismelor psihogene în patogeneza durerii la acești pacienți. Sub influența punctelor Ashi s-a ameliorat durerea cu 20,6%, iar tratamentul topic-patogenetic a dus la o ameliorare de 45,1%, ceea ce indică o eficiență cu aproximativ două ori mai mare.

Cuvinte-cheie: mușchii masticatori, acupresura, durerea.

AURICULAR ACUPRESSURE IN THE TREATMENT OF PAIN IN PATIENTS WITH MASTICATORY MUSCLE DYSFUNCTION

Melnic Corina, student, Faculty of general medicine, „Nicolae Testemițanu” SUMPh

Bordeniuc Gheorghe, PhD, assist. prof., Department of Interdisciplinary dentistry and oral rehabilitation, „Nicolae Testemițanu” SUMPh

Lacusta Victor, PhD, ScD, univ. prof., Academician, Head of department, Department of alternative and complementary medicine, „Nicolae Testemițanu” SUMPh

Background. Masticatory muscle dysfunction is associated with pain and subjective discomfort, which maintain and aggravate disturbances within the stomatognathic system. Acute exacerbation of pain is frequently associated with the presence of stress-related, emotional, and behavioral factors, leading to an impaired quality of life for these patients. Under these conditions, the development of effective, safe, and accessible corrective methods is highly relevant.

Objective of the study. To study the effectiveness of pain management in patients with masticatory muscle dysfunction under the influence of auricular acupressure using seeds (EAR-SEEDS), aiming for both the alleviation of painful symptoms and the overall impact on the patient's well-being.

Material and methods. A total of 40 patients were studied, of whom 20 patients received stimulation of Ashi points and 20 patients received stimulation of topic-pathogenic points (myogenic, analgesic, vegetotropic, and osteo-artrogenic auricular points). The duration of treatment was 5 consecutive days, and pain was assessed using the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS, 0-10 points) before and after auriculotherapy.

Results. Effectiveness of Ashi points: $6,8 \pm 0,3$ points before treatment, $5,4 \pm 0,4$ points after treatment. In the case of topic-pathogenic treatment: $7,1 \pm 0,4$ points before and $3,9 \pm 0,5$ points after treatment. Ashi points were detected by applying an auricular probe in Sector A ($0-30^\circ$, psycho-emotional zone) – 9 patients (45%); Sector E ($120-150^\circ$, atlanto-occipital zone) – 4 patients (20%); Sector G ($180-210^\circ$, facial zone) – 7 patients (35%).

Conclusions. In patients with masticatory muscle dysfunction, the occurrence of Ashi points predominates in psycho-emotional zones, reflecting the involvement of psychogenic mechanisms in the pathogenesis of pain in these patients. Under the influence of Ashi point stimulation, pain improved by 20.6%, while topic-pathogenetic treatment led to an improvement of 45.1%, indicating an efficiency approximately twice as high.

Keywords: masticatory muscles, acupressure, pain.