

Parents' Dental Anxiety Trajectories and their Association with Treatment Procedures

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Our aim was to identify dental anxiety trajectories and their association with the number of treatment procedures from the gestational week 14 to 24 months after childbirth in 2068 mothers and 3021 fathers of the FinnBrain Birth Cohort Study

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Methods

- Dental anxiety was measured with Modified Dental Anxiety Scale at gestational weeks (gw) 14 and 34, and 3 and 24 months (mo) after birth.
- Dental treatment procedures were obtained from the national public health care centers' patient data register AvoHilmo (gw14 to 24mo).
- We categorized treatment procedures as follows
 - examinations, preventive care and radiological examinations as preventive treatment procedures;
 - fillings, periodontal, endodontic and surgical procedures as restorative treatment procedures.
- Trajectories were identified using latent growth mixture modelling.
- Associations between trajectories and numbers of treatment procedures were analyzed using Joncheere-Terpstra test.

Results

- Five trajectories of dental anxiety were identified for 2068 fathers and four trajectories of dental anxiety were identified for 3201 mothers
- Fathers with stable high dental anxiety had more preventive and treatment procedures than fathers in other groups
- Mother with high decreasing dental anxiety had more preventive and treatment procedures than mothers in other groups

