

Does orthodontic treatment have an effect on peer relationships, behavior and bullying in school children?

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Introduction:

A complex relationship exists between the presence of a malocclusion, peer relationships and being bullied. The aim of this follow up study is to investigate this in children who were previously identified as being bullied, some of whom had a malocclusion that was orthodontically treated.

Primary outcomes: Impact of orthodontic treatment on peer relations and bullying

Null Hypothesis: Orthodontic treatment has no effect on peer relations or the incidence of bullying in school children who have previously reported being bullied and have a malocclusion

Design: Longitudinal cohort study

Sample: 100 school children aged 12 to 16

Methodology: Participants who, in Phase 1 of the research program, were identified as being bullied will be re-tested using a battery of psychological tests used in the first part of the study assess peer relationships and bullying. Clinical examination will be undertaken to assess presence, type and severity of a malocclusion using IOTN, and orthodontic treatment. The individuals having had orthodontic treatment will also be interviewed to greater understand their experience of orthodontic treatment and the impact it had of their peer relationships and being bullied.