



PREVALENCE OF SPACING AMONG CHENNAI SCHOOL STUDENTS (SURVEY)

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INTRODUCTION

Malocclusion exhibits itself mainly in three forms, one is crowding and irregularly arranged teeth, another is proclination and third is spacing. The reasons may be due to discrepancy between arch size and tooth materials or because of habits or any other environmental etiology. There are various studies conducted to assess prevalence of spacing in various populations. However no such studies have been conducted in chennai school populations to assess the prevalence of spacing within our population. So we have taken up such studies to examine the prevalence of spacing in school students of our population. This will help the orthodontists to get a better idea of the incidence of upper anterior spacing in our populations where they are practising. The study was conducted among female school students of Chennai populations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

517 female school students of Velammal Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Ponneri and local schools of chennai populations aged between 15-19yrs were examined. Prevalence of spacing was assessed by taking photographs.

INCLUSION

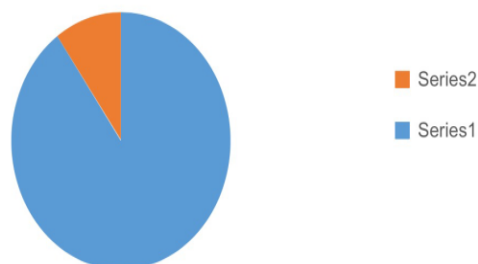
Female students with upper anterior spacing between ages of 16-20yrs.

EXCLUSION

Students who has crowding and proclination without spacing. Not only midline diastema is considered but also generalised spacing is assessed.

RESULT

prevalence of spacing among chennai school children



Series 1- 517 female students, Series 2-51 female students



DISCUSSION

This study was conducted among female school children between ages of 16-20years. Oral screening was done to 517 school students between ages of 16-20years out of which 51 students has upper anterior spacing. Generalised spacing is assessed for female students not only midline diastema is concerned.

Spacing may be due to developmental causes and physiological causes. Developmental causes are spacing in deciduous teeth, ugly duckling stage and microdontia. Physiological causes are tongue thrusting, thumb sucking, periodontal problems. These spacing can be corrected by wearing orthodontic braces, direct and indirect veneers and crowns and bridges.^[1] Spacing is the most common causes in deciduous or milk teeth.

Many studies were conducted in various populations to assess prevalence of spacing among school students. According to various studies, Spacing is more common in caucasian than africans. Spacing is of atleast 2mm was found in 9.1-55.8% of the African and 7.1-59.2% of the

caucasian children during different emergence stages of the dentition.^[2]

REFERENCE

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