Assessing the Relationship between Maternal Anxiety and Their Salivary Alpha – Amylase levels with Child’s Behavior at Dental Appointments

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Introduction: Various factors affect children behaviors in medical centers. One of the major factors is parental anxiety, especially existence of anxiety in mother. Also, salivary alpha-amylase is one of the markers that can be associated with autonomic nervous system, stress and anxiety.

AIM
The aim of the present study was to assess the relationship between maternal anxiety and their salivary alpha-amylase levels with children cooperation in dentistry appointments.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
Twenty five of mothers with their children (3 to 6 years old) were participated in their salivary samples were taken to measure salivary alpha-amylase. Children cooperation evaluated with Frankle’s Rating Scale.

RESULT
There was a significant reverse relationship between maternal anxiety and child cooperation (p=0.017). A high negative relationship was seen between maternal SAA and child cooperation (p=0.00). Mothers with higher levels of anxiety had more SAA levels (p=0.00). Children’s cooperation increases by increasing age (p=0.018).

CONCLUSION
Maternal anxiety can predict child’s behavior at dental appointment. SAA can be used as a marker that can shows sympathetic nervous system’s activity and can be related to levels of anxiety.

Salivary alpha-amylase, children cooperation, maternal anxiety, Dentistry

Poster