2503 Head posture evaluation in bruxist children with primary teeth

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Objective: The aim of the present study was to evaluate and compare the head position among bruxist and non bruxist children with primary dentition, in order to determine if the parafunction affects the posture of the head, as the craniofacial complex, shoulders and neck share innervation. Methods: All the subjects were three to six year old, were healthy and presented dental wear. The children were included in the bruxist group when their anxiety level was above 0.75%, according to Conners' Parents and Teachers Rating Scales (CPRS and CTRS), their parents related diurnal or nocturnal audible occlusal sounds, presented 2 or more signs of temporomandibular disorders according to Bernal and Tsamtsouris and pathological dental wear. The other children were classified in the control group. Dental casts to evaluate the dental wear, cephalometric radiographs and physiotherapist evaluation were obtained for each child. The cephalometric radiograph was analyzed according to Solow and Tallgren with a standardized technique to evaluate the craniocervical position for the bruxist (n=34) and the control group (n=35). The dental wear was drawn, acquired in digital format and processed automatically. The head posture was compared between the two groups, clinically and with the cephalogram using the t-student and Mann Whitney probes. The stepwise likelihood ratio method was used for the multivariated analysis. Results: The physiotherapists concluded that there was no spine diseases that could affect the head position in the studied children. It was found statistically significant differences in the head position of bruxist and non-bruxist children when the 2 groups were compared. The bruxism seems to affect the head position in the multivariated analysis. Conclusion: Bruxism seems to affect the head position in the studied children. Further studies are necessary to explore its mechanism and if it is possible for the parafunction to affect the growth.

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