

# Periodontal health knowledge and awareness among subjects with fixed orthodontic appliance

Elham S. Abu Alhaija<sup>1</sup>, Eman M. Al-Saif<sup>1</sup>, Dafi Q. Taani<sup>1</sup>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/2177-6709.23.5.40.e1-9.onl>

**Objective:** To report on periodontal health knowledge and awareness among orthodontic patients and to investigate the effect of age, attitude and duration of orthodontic treatment on periodontal health awareness among orthodontic patients.

**Methods:** A total of 297 orthodontics patient (90 males, 207 females) with mean age of  $17.7 \pm 5.0$  years (older than 18 years = 119, 18 years or younger = 178) were included in this study. Subjects were currently wearing upper and lower fixed orthodontic appliances for an mean period of  $12.55 \pm 10.86$  months (less than or equal to 18 months = 231, more than 18 months = 66). Data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire (demographic characteristics, subjects' awareness toward their periodontal health, periodontal knowledge among orthodontic patient and patients' attitude toward orthodontic treatment regarding periodontal health) and clinical periodontal examination.

**Results:** Periodontal knowledge was poor among orthodontic patients in relation to dental plaque. Only 24 subjects (8%) correctly answered knowledge-related questions. Adult orthodontic patients reported negative attitude toward fixed orthodontic treatment in respect to periodontal health ( $p < 0.001$ ). Duration of orthodontic treatment negatively affected subjects' attitude toward fixed orthodontic treatment ( $p < 0.01$ ). The majority of subjects were in the high level of awareness group (64%). Orthodontic patients' awareness toward their periodontal health during fixed orthodontic treatment was affected by attitude scores ( $p = 0.005$ ), number of teeth with gingival recession ( $p = 0.041$ ), Gingival Index ( $p = 0.000$ ), duration of treatment ( $p = 0.047$ ) and age ( $p = 0.008$ ).

**Conclusions:** Periodontal health knowledge among orthodontic patients was poor. Orthodontic patients' awareness of their periodontal health was moderate and was affected by age, attitude and duration of orthodontic treatment.

**Keywords:** Awareness. Attitude. Orthodontic. Periodontal health.

\* Access [www.scielo.br/dpjo](http://www.scielo.br/dpjo) to read the full article.

<sup>1</sup> Jordan University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Preventive Dentistry (Irbid, Jordan).

**How to cite:** Alhaija ESA, Al-Saif EM, Taani DQ. Periodontal health knowledge and awareness among subjects with fixed orthodontic appliance. Dental Press J Orthod. 2018 Sept-Oct;23(5):40.e1-9.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/2177-6709.23.5.40.e1-9.onl>

**Submitted:** September 23, 2017 - **Revised and accepted:** February 21, 2018

**Contact address:** Elham S. Abu Alhaija  
E-mail: [elham@just.edu.jo](mailto:elham@just.edu.jo)