

Unveiling Patterns: Analyzing No Show Dental Appointments and Child Abuse

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BACKGROUND

- In 2019, an estimated **1,840 children** died from abuse or neglect in the US, while many others suffer physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.
- Child abuse remains a significant problem despite the efforts of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to prevent it.
- Any methodology to improve the ability of medical providers to recognize signs of risk of abuse and report it could make an impact in lowering its occurrence.

STUDY AIM

- To assess whether children with a documented history of child abuse have higher no-show rates and late-cancellation rates (cancelling within 24 hours) than those that do not.

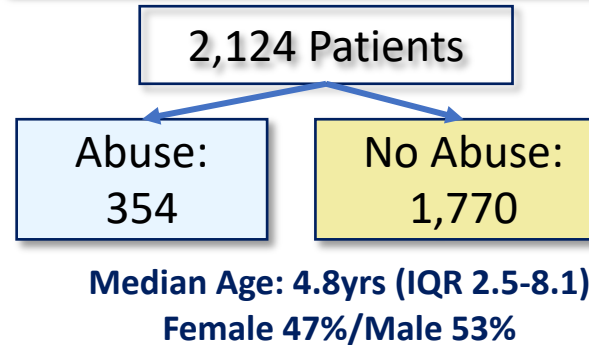


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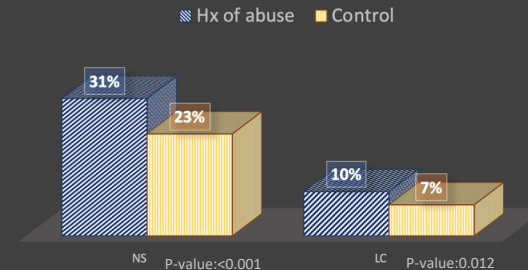
METHODS

- A retrospective cohort study was performed over 13 years, 07/01/10 to 06/30/23, at a tertiary medical center
- EHR of patients aged 0 months- 16 years were reviewed
- Patient rates of **no-showing (NS)** or **late-cancelling (LC)** dental appointments were analyzed along with any history of child abuse.
- Propensity analysis performed to compare case patients against a control population matched by gender and age at first dental visit using a 1:5 cohort to control match

RESULTS



RATE OF NO SHOWS AND LATE-CANCELLATIONS



Incidence Rate Ratio

	Hx of abuse	Control	95% CI
NS	1.49	-	1.26,1.76
LC	1.29	-	1.08,1.53
SC	1.03	-	0.96,1.10

CONCLUSIONS

- Children with a documented history of child abuse were associated with a significantly increased probability (**49% increased risk**) of no-showing and late-cancelling (**29% increased risk**) scheduled dental visits.
- No significant difference in standard cancellation rates (SC) was seen between the groups.
- More studies are needed to verify these results, but findings support that **high rates of NS and LC among patients can serve as a marker for a history of abuse or current abuse.**

REFERENCES

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