

Parental Satisfaction of the Special Day Foundation Program: A Pilot Study

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INTRODUCTION

- The Special Day Foundation program (SDFP) was established at the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center in 2020
- The program focuses on improving patient compliance and comfort for patients with special health care needs
- Any child under the age of 21 years old who has been diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability qualifies
- The program offers a sensory adapted dental environment (SADE), which includes a larger private room with specialized sensory tools, longer appointment times, and more frequent dental visits
- Previous studies have found that a SADE may be associated with improved behavior in patients with developmental disabilities

OBJECTIVE

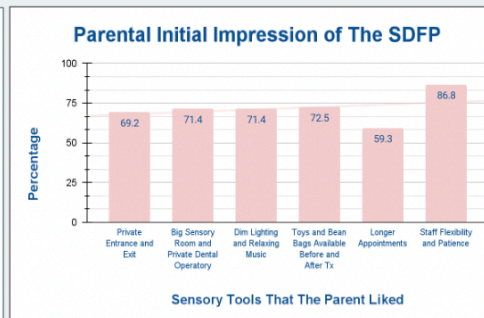
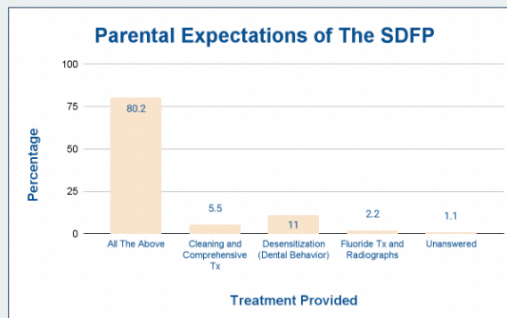
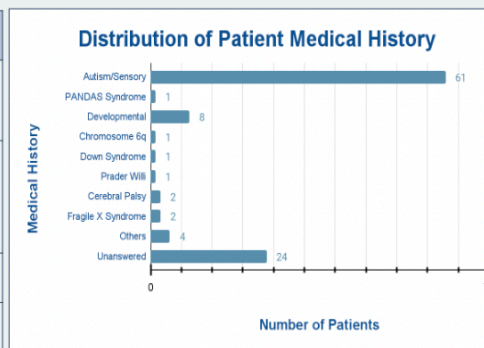
- Our study aimed to determine if parental expectations and perceptions of the SDFP influenced their overall satisfaction with their child's dental treatment

METHODS

- A cross sectional study design was conducted with a sample of 91 children
- A 10 question survey was administered in the SADE to the parents of enrolled SDFP patients who agreed to participate in the study
- All surveys were completed at the end of the clinic visit. Surveys were available in both English and Spanish based on parental preference

RESULTS

	PATIENT	PARENT
Mean Age	8.81± 4.5	38.7 ±14.4
Average # of times treated in the SADE	3 ± 1.3	N/A
Female	20.9%	79.1%
Male	58.2%	15.4%



RESULTS CONTINUED

- 97% of parents believed that the SDFP had been beneficial to their child
- 97% of parents believed that the hour long appointments were enough time
- 96% of parents believed that the private entrance to both the SADE and the dental operator helped relieve their child's dental anxiety
- 94% of parents believed that their child should be seen every 3 months in the SADE
- 80% of parents expected comprehensive dental treatment, radiographs, fluoride varnish, and desensitization tools in the SDFP
- 87% of parents appreciated the staff's flexibility and patience in the SADE, closely followed by the availability of other sensory tools like toys, lighting, etc

CONCLUSION

- Findings show that parents were very satisfied with their child's behavioral improvement during dental treatment
- Parental satisfaction does increase with the SDFP and shows that it meets their expectations and perceptions
- This study contributes to advancements in personalized dentistry for patients with special health care needs

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