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(57) Abstract :

The objectives of the present invention were to develop a special oral health education technique and compare plaque scores before and after health education. The final study population comprised of 96, 6-18 years old visually impaired children. Silness and Loe plaque index was recorded at baseline. Audio tactile performance technique (ATP Technique) a specially designed health education method was used to educate these children regarding oral hygiene maintenance. Periodic reinforcement of health education was done at an interval of 9 months. Re-examination was done after 18 months of health education to assess plaque scores. There was increase in frequency of tooth brushing after health education. The mean plaque scores pre and post health education were 1.41 (± 0.58) and 0.63(± 0.39) respectively. The difference was statistically significant ($p < .001$). McNemars Chi square, Wilcoxon's sign rank test and paired t test was used to assess the difference between the scores before and after health education. The present study revealed that visually impaired children can maintain an acceptable level of oral hygiene when taught to them using special customized methods.

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