

Dentition in children with enlarged tonsils compared to control children.

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The aim of the present study was to evaluate whether or not there are any differences in the dentition between children with enlarged tonsils and those with normal tonsils. A sample of 73 children (33 boys and 40 girls) with enlarged tonsils and with a mean age of 10.1 years was compared with a normal control group, matched for age and sex. Eighteen dentition variables and thirty-two variables in anamnestic, clinical, pharyngeal and postural findings were recorded. Measurements were obtained from lateral skull radiographs and dental casts. Group means were compared. Relationships between variables were studied using simple correlations and multiple stepwise regression analyses. It was found that children with enlarged tonsils had more retroclined lower incisors, more anteriorly positioned upper incisors, smaller overbite, larger overjet, shorter lower dental arches, narrower upper dental arches and an increased frequency of lateral crossbite. Functional and/or morphological disorders, causing an open posture of the mouth, a lowered anterior posture of the tongue and a low position of the hyoid bone are thought to be associated with the differences in the dentition between the two groups. Obstruction of the oropharynx by enlarged tonsils, might be one factor responsible for these dysfunctions.

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