

Factors associating with attitudes towards and demand for orthodontic treatment among first-year students at Chulalongkorn University.

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Nowadays, trend of fixed orthodontic treatment is increasing especially among adolescents. This phenomenon may be due to unnecessary orthodontic treatment. This research was conducted to study about attitudes, and demands for orthodontic treatment, as well as to identify factors associated with demand for orthodontic treatment among students at Chulalongkorn University. This research collected data by sending self-administered questionnaires to a stratified-clustered sample of 800 first-year students at Chulalongkorn University. 635 respondents returned completed questionnaires giving a response rate of 79.4; 204 males (32.1%) and 431 females (67.9%). Data analysis was performed by SPSS for Windows. Main findings were : 1) 32.7% of respondents experienced orthodontic treatment. 2) Factors significantly associated with attitudes towards orthodontic treatment were sex ($P=0.006$) and hometown ($P=0.019$). 3) Among a group of 427 students who never experienced fixed orthodontic treatment, 43.1% want orthodontic treatment. 4) Analysis done by logistic regression analysis showed that factors statistically and independently associated with demand for orthodontic treatment were attitudes towards orthodontic treatment ($P<0.001$) and functional factors ($O=0.001$). These findings have relevant implications in the appropriate delivery of orthodontic treatment.

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