

**UTILIZATION OF ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT AMONG PATIENTS AGED
BETWEEN 10-21 YEARS ATTENDING DENTAL CLINIC IN KARATINA SUB
COUNTY HOSPITAL NYERI COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to study the utilization of orthodontic treatment among patients aged between 10-21 years attending dental clinic in Karatina sub-county hospital Nyeri County. The various types of malocclusion, their causes and treatment options were assessed. It was a cross sectional study with sample size 318. Data collection was between March and April 2015 through administering of questionnaire to patients who attended dental clinic aged 10-21 years and who consented to participate in the research. Data analysis was done through excel and word software and presented in form of , tables .

The results from this research showed that need for orthodontic treatment was high at 54% and it varied with each age group with 10 -13 years reporting 35%, 14 -17 at 38% and 27% for 18 -21. Age 14 -17 was the most preferred age for orthodontic treatment at 42% while 18 -21 least preferred at 23%. In terms of awareness 71% new that irregular teeth causes malocclusion while 66% new that they had malocclusion. Level of uptake of orthodontic treatment was low at 46% while that of non utilization was high at with 73% of respondent who did not utilize orthodontic treatment saying it is expensive, 25% unaware of the treatment and 2% being stopped by their parent from taking the treatment.

In conclusion need for orthodontic treatment was high with inadequate level of awareness which resulted to low level uptake of orthodontic treatment and a high non utilization of orthodontic treatment. Therefore I recommended that: more outreaches to be organized , county and national governments to increase number of facilities, train and employ more dentist/ orthodontists and finally lower the cost of orthodontic treatment so as to make it affordable to many citizens.