

Do several orthodontic unit members evaluate and treat the same patient equally?

Kieferorthopädie Paderborn
Dr. Paddenberg, Dr. Schütte & Koll.

D. Paddenberg, C. Fode

Private office, Paderborn, Germany

AAO 114th Annual Session, New Orleans, USA, April 2014

Objective of the investigation

If the patient is attended by several practitioners of the same orthodontic department, are there consequences for the patient such as the course of treatment and its outcome?

Materials and methods

Four practitioners used a standardized examination sheet, examine independently the same patient (overall 100) and define their course of treatment. The standardized examination sheet is shown on the next slide.

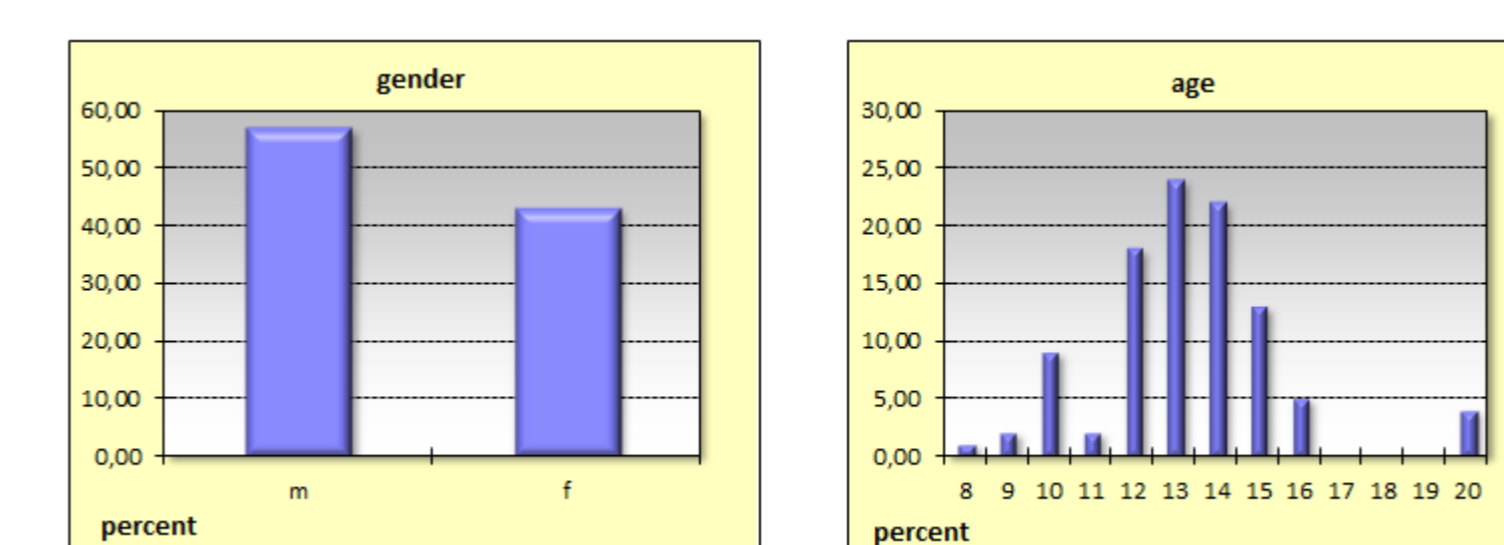
For this E-poster, we focussed on the following categories:

- current diagnostics
- short-term aim
- medium-term aim
- treatment today
- treatment next

Materials and methods

Data and Statistics

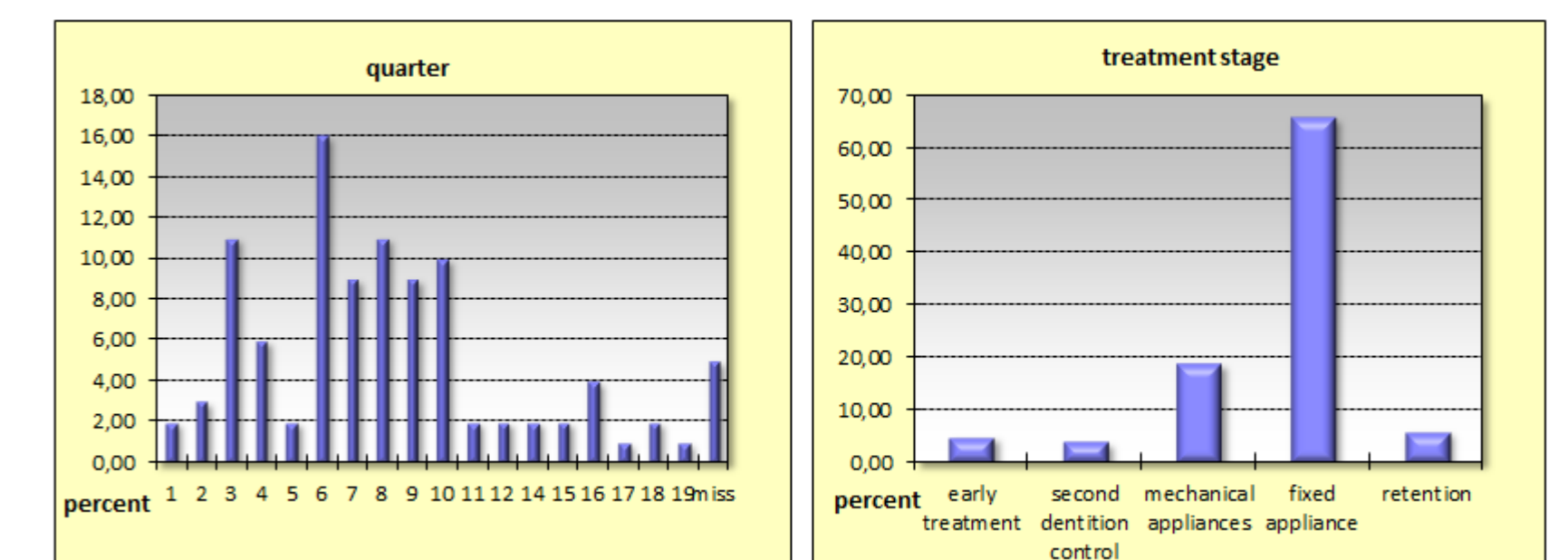
Patients' data



57% of the patients are male, 43% female. The range of the patients varies from 8 to 20 years old at which most of the subjects are 13 / 14 years. The average age of the patients is 13,3 years.

Data and Statistics

Patients' data



The duration of previous treatment ranges between 1 to 19 quarter/year, most of them are up to ten quarter. The mean is at 7,8 quarter. Over 60% of them wear fixed appliances, nearly 20% use removable mechanical appliances.

Results

A fundamental therapeutic concept is defined by the treatment plan, which is acknowledged by all practitioners, and standardized tx-sequences. There are differences in the assessment of the examination findings and the deduced treatment steps. The highest difference range is 15%.

category	difference range
current diagnostics	11 %
short-term aim	9 %
medium-term aim	11 %
treatment today	15 %
treatment next	10 %

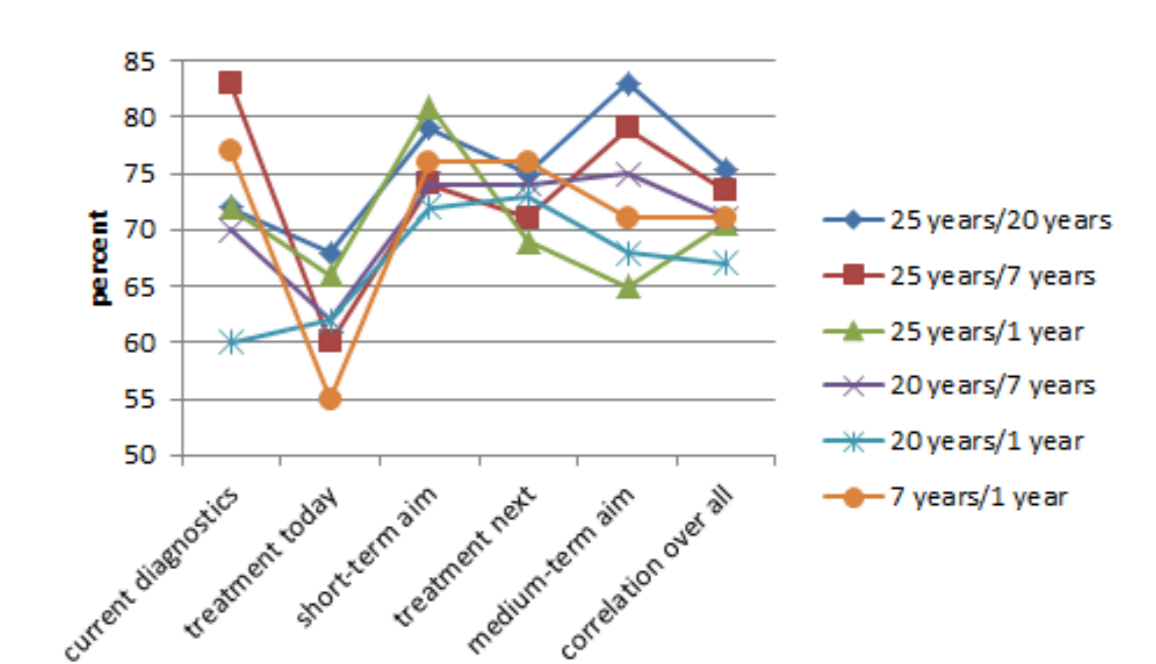
Results

There are different correlations between individual practitioners, which in turn correlate with the duration of the practice affiliation.

Correlation between individual practitioners (average of the five categories, percentagewise)				
	1 (25 years)	2 (20 years)	3 (7 years)	4 (1 year)
1 (25 years)	-	75,4 %	73,4 %	70,6 %
2 (20 years)		-	71,0 %	67,0 %
3 (7 years)			-	71,0 %
4 (1 year)				-

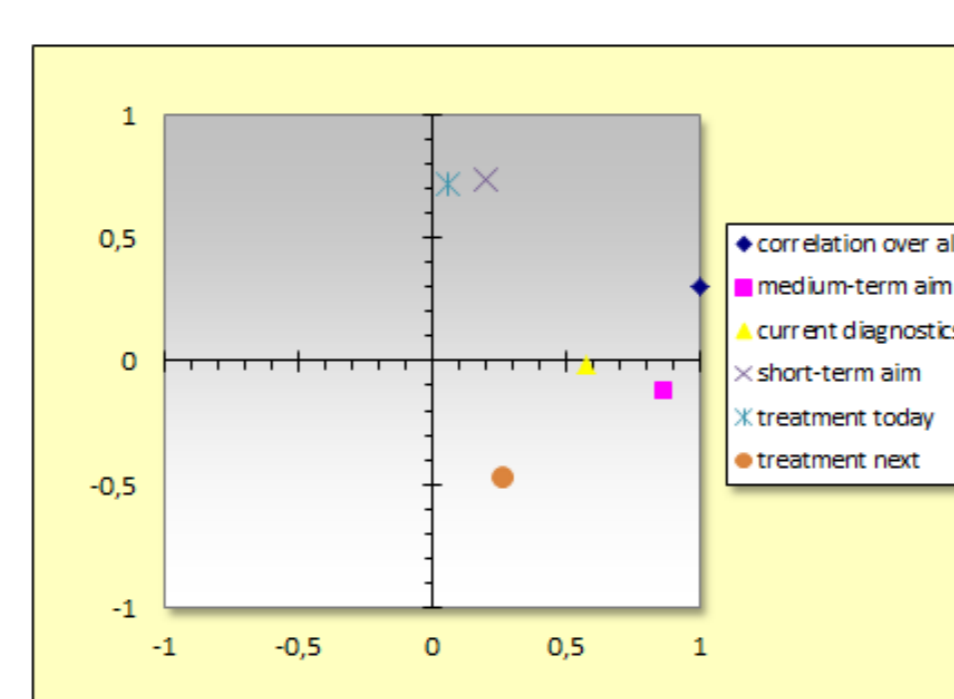
Results

The harmonization of the treatment increases by trend with the duration of the practice affiliation. The individual variation of the "treatment today" has only a small influence on the course of treatment and treatment outcome.



Results

Factor analysis shows us the expected analytical closeness of treatment today and short term-aim. But medium term-aim and treatment next are not so close as we estimated.



Conclusion

There is a need for more communication between the orthodontists, especially in the beginning of employment. The results encourage the practitioners to perform a regular collegial discussion regarding treatment sequences and intermediate treatment aims.

A standardized reciprocal controlling may be a way to increase the harmonization of treatment performance and outcome.

On the other hand patients would benefit from the discussion regarding different ways of therapy to reach the same aim.