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factors: personal factors, external/social factors and dental factors. The personal factors are individual variations that make a patient more or less vulnerable for the disorder, such as age and maturity, sex, personality traits and temperament. External/social factors are based on a learning approach from the social environment or a social situation that makes the patient generally more vulnerable. The most important is probably the dental factors since a majority of dentally phobic patients report previous painful and unpleasant dental treatment as the origin of their phobia. In most cases the phobia has its origin in childhood and adolescence and it develops over time in a vicious circle of avoidance, poor oral health and feelings of shame and guilt.

References

Aetiology of Dental Phobia


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