DEVELOPING INDICATIONS FOR CONSCIOUS SEDATION DURING THE THERAPEUTIC TREATMENT OF DENTAL DISEASES IN CHILDREN

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Relevance of the topic. When determining a dental treatment strategy for children, it is important to consider not only the clinical course of the disease but also the child's age, developmental level, ability to communicate, and ability to remain still and cooperative during the procedure. Some children can be treated using basic psychological and behavioral guidance techniques, while others may require additional calming methods because of severe anxiety, reflex movements, or difficulty tolerating treatment. Therefore, the decision to use sedation should be based not only on the dental diagnosis but also on a combination of clinical and behavioral factors. Clearly defined indications can help prevent unnecessary sedation and support the appropriate choice of treatment.

Aim of the study. To develop clinical and behavioral criteria for identifying the need for conscious sedation during therapeutic dental treatment in children.

Materials and methods. The study plans to comprehensively assess children's dental status, behavioral responses, and readiness for treatment. The assessment may include the Frankl Behavior Rating Scale, evaluation of the child's anxiety level, history of previous dental procedures, and the expected duration of treatment. Based on the collected data, an algorithm for determining indications for sedation will be developed. The algorithm will distinguish three main groups: children who can be treated without sedation; children for whom sedation may be considered when psychological and behavioral guidance methods are ineffective; and children who require specific medical assessment and an individualized treatment plan. Contraindications, airway status, and general medical risks will also be considered when selecting a sedation method.

Expected results. The study is expected to establish criteria for grouping children according to their need for sedation, an initial patient-assessment algorithm, and practical recommendations for selecting sedation. These measures may help reduce subjective decision-making when planning dental procedures and improve patient safety.

Conclusion. In pediatric dental practice, indications for conscious sedation should be developed through the combined assessment of clinical and behavioral criteria. The

proposed approach may help identify a genuine need for sedation, select appropriate alternative methods, and establish an individualized treatment strategy.

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